

Top amateurs missing from tourney

By CHRISTOPHER HORETH
News Chief Staff

GRENELEFE — There's something missing from this year's Florida State Golf Association state amateur championship, namely the defending champion.

Lee Rinker, a University of Alabama student who won the state amateur last year, is not present this year, nor are several other top state amateurs due to a conflict of interests. The NCAA golf championships, typically held at an earlier date, are currently being held at Fresno State, attracting a number of players who would have been among the 128-man field at the Grenelefe Golf & Tennis Resort's West Course.

"It's still a strong field, but I would say this is the weakest state amateur in four or five years because a lot of strong college



players are not here," said Adam Armagost, who shot a 70 in the first round Thursday and entered today's second round tied for first.

Armagost, 20, added he didn't feel this year's field took anything away from the prestige of the event. "No way. It's still got a lot of good players, and you've still got to shoot low scores. These guys (not participating) don't lessen the degree of victory at all. If you win this — this is big.

"If you can keep it (score) under 75 for the tournament, you'll be in the running," added Armagost. "This course is very hard, especially when Saturday and Sunday roll around. I say the winner of this tournament will not shoot a round over 75."

The 72-hole tournament will conclude Sunday. After today's round, the field will be cut to players within 12 strokes of the leader, according to FSGA executive director Cal Korf.

Armagost, a North Palm Beach resident who just completed his sophomore year at the University of Florida, opened Thursday's round with a bogey on the first hole. He responded with birdies on Nos. 8, 9 and 12, however, to finish at two-under-par, tied with Marco Dawson, Craig Rouhier and Tom Knapp.

Dawson, 19, a student at Florida Southern who resides in Fort

Lauderdale, matched scores of 35 on the front and back nine to finish at 70. He agreed that playing for the Moccasins and participating in college tournaments at Grenelefe was a plus.

"Yeah, I'm sure it helps," Dawson said, "because you know where the good spots and the bad spots are on the course; you know where to hit it and where not to hit it."

Dawson credited his play on the fairways and the greens for his success in the opening round.

"I hit some good iron shots and I made some good putts. My irons were working real well for me," Dawson said.

Rouhier shot a 34 for the front nine and came back with a 36 on the back nine to finish tied with Armagost and Dawson.

First round results depicted the level of competition among the state amateurs. A total of nine players were under par, while twenty-nine finished within four strokes of the lead or better.

Jim Keedy, Bryan Edwards, Pipp Patton, Andy Zullo and Bob May finished one stroke back at 71, while five others — Jerry Coren, Pete Wooford, Mike Touhey, Tom Hearn and Bob Stockman — were two strokes back at 72.

Three strokes behind the pace were Don Burwell, Bob Kouwe, Steve Scrafford, John Pallot, Jack Veghte, Gary Onorati and Louis Mitrovich.

Friday, June 10, 1983

The News Chief



4 share lead after 1 round of state amateur

Fort Lauderdale man among leaders despite gimpy knee

By Bob Fowler

OF THE SENTINEL STAFF

HAINES CITY — Once again the Florida State Golf Association's amateur championship is producing good shots, scores and stories.

For example, there's Marco Dawson of Fort Lauderdale. He's a contender for the championship in this 66th state amateur despite a swollen left knee resulting from an automobile accident last month.

And there's Adam Armagost of North Palm Beach, a member of the University of Florida's golf team. He's also contending in this event at

the Grenelefe Golf and Racquet Club while his Gator teammates are competing in the NCAA championships in Fresno, Calif.

Dawson, Armagost, Tom Knapp of Jupiter and Craig Rouhier of Orange Park posted 2-under-par 70s to share the lead after Thursday's opening round of the 72-hole event.

Andy Zullo of Kissimmee and Jim Keedy of Leesburg were among five tied at 1-under 71 as only nine players in the 128-man field were able to break par on the 6,900-yard west course.

Bob Stockman of Altamonte Springs was one of five players at par 72. Orlando's Steve Scrafford and

Louie Mitrovich, and three-time (1968-70-75) state amateur champion Jack Veghte of Clearwater, were among seven who had 73s.

"The course wasn't set up as long as it could have been," said Keedy, a Leesburg attorney. "But most of the pins were on slopes, and putting was difficult."

Officials perhaps put the cups in those spots that would drain quickly in case of rain. Instead, conditions were almost ideal — hot and humid with only a slight breeze.

Dawson and Armagost had to contend with problems that didn't involve putting.

Please see GOLF, B-4



With playing partner Bryan Edwards of Jacksonville behind him, Jim Fee of Lakeland stares with disapproval at his ball that has nestled into a palmetto clump on the 12th fairway. Unable to find relief within two club lengths, Fee returned to the tee for another drive.

DENNIS WALL/SENTINEL



DENNIS WALL/SENTINEL

Orlando's Ron McCann follows flight his shot to 18th green.

GOLF

From B-1

A 19-year-old sophomore member of Florida Southern's golf team, Dawson was driving a car in early May that was involved in an accident.

"It was my fault," he said. "I ran a red light."

His knee injury prevented him from competing in the NCAA Division II championships that Florida Southern won in 1981-82. The team finished fourth this year without him.

The swollen knee continues to affect his golf.

He bogeyed the first hole by hitting his drive into some trees but birdied the fifth by sinking a

10-foot putt. At No. 7, he hit a 3-iron within a foot of the cup for another birdie.

He made birdie putts of 15 and 6 feet on the 11th and 12th holes but bogeyed the 17th when he missed the green for his 70.

Armagost, 20, probably didn't expect to accompany his teammates to Fresno. After all, he played in only one tournament last season for the Gators.

At Grenelefe, Armagost hit 16 greens in regulation. He overshot the first for a bogey and missed the 16th, but he saved par.

He sank birdie putts of 10 and 20 feet on the eighth and ninth holes and hit a sand wedge within a foot of the cup for a birdie on No. 12.

□ Scores ... page B-6

Par elusive in State Am 2nd round

By STEVE LEWIS
Tribune Sports Writer

HAINES CITY — Traquilizers were the order of the day after the Grenelefe Golf and Racquet Club West Course zapped most of the field in the 66th annual Florida State Amateur golf championship. Only the leaders, Marco Dawson of Fort Lauderdale and Tom Knapp of Tequesta, managed to stay even with par at the midway point in the 72-hole event.

Both Dawson, a Florida Southern College junior, and Knapp, a former mini-tour player, carded second round 2-over-par 74s. Their 36-hole scores were 144, even par.

One stroke behind was the two-some of Andy Zullo and Adam Armagost. Zullo of Kissimmee shot 74-145, while Armagost, one of four first-round leaders, had 75-145.

Two shots off the lead were Bob Sauerberg of Lakeland at 72-146, Bryan Edwards of Jacksonville at 75-146 and Jim Keedy of Leesburg at 75-146. Sauerberg was the only player in the 126-man field who matched par 72 in the second round.

Three more players, including Pipp Patton of Temple Terrace, were nestled at 4-over 148, four strokes off the pace.

For Patton, 27, a second-round 77 was six shots worse than his first-round effort. However, he was not all that displeased.

"It's the kind of a course where no one will shoot lights out," said Patton, who is president of his own company in Tampa. "The course was set up longer (7,200 yards) today (Friday) and the wind blew some. But those things really didn't bother me as much as my putting."

Even so, Patton feels his game is not far off.

"I think I'm capable of winning here," he said.

While Patton appeared confident, so did the leaders, Dawson and

Knapp.

Coincidentally, both had carded opening-round 70s and had shared the first-round lead with Armagost and Craig Rouhier of Orange Park who skied to a second-round 79.

It's remarkable that Dawson, 19, is even playing here, let alone leading. He suffered a leg injury in a car accident a month ago, and because of the swelling, he still can't flex his left leg. He is playing with his feet spread only three inches apart.

"I haven't lost any distance," he said. "When I've had problems, it's been my putting."

However, the opposite was true in the second round. Dawson hit only eight greens, but scrambled to a one-birdie, three-bogey effort.

As for Knapp, 36, who is president of an oil drilling company, only some bad breaks kept him from leading this event by a bunch. Through 28 holes, he was 3-under and looking at another birdie possibility at the 582-yard 11th hole.

"I'd hit a big drive and a good 3-wood, I thought," he said. "Then I saw it hit a tree and I ended up losing the ball and took a double bogey."

A bogey at the 14th put him back to even par. Then, at the 380-yard 15th, his drive hit another tree and bounded backward 50 yards past the tee, next to a soft-drink machine.

But Knapp hit a 1-iron, 4-iron, wedge to within three feet of the pin, and dropped the putt for a miraculous bogey. A birdie at the 18th with a three-foot putt gave him a share of the lead.

With the cut at 156, 12-over-par, more than half the field will be missing for today's third round.

Other area players who made the cut were: Bob May, Lakeland, 80-151; Bob Kouwe, Tampa, 79-152; Jerry Coren, Tampa, 81-153; Hunter Rhodes, Tampa, 79-154; Bob Cornett, Tampa, 76-154; Kevin Dyer, Lake Placid, 79-154 and Dean Hires, Lake Wales, 78-156.

Missing the cut were: Tim Kenney, Lakeland, 80-157; George McCoy, Bartow, 80-158; Brian Hawke, Temple Terrace, 76-158; Jerry MacDonald, Lakeland, 73-158; Jim Nosewicz, Tampa, 79-159; David Theilen, Dade City, 84-160; Paul Tarnow, Tampa, 80-160; John Burdin III, Lakeland, 84-162; David Snyder, Winter Haven, 81-NC.

Grenelefe course got tougher



News Chief photo by Paul L. Champion

Hunter Rhodes of Tampa tees off at ninth hole.

By CHRISTOPHER MORETH
News Chief Staff

GRENELEFE — What a difference a day makes at Grenelefe.

With the tees pushed back and the pins re-positioned, Friday's second round scores of the Florida State Golf Association's state amateur championship were a direct contrast to Thursday's first round scores.

The tournament at the Grenelefe Golf & Tennis Resort's West Course, enters its third round today with Tom Knapp of Tequesta and Marco Dawson of Fort Lauderdale tied for the lead at 144.

Knapp and Dawson each shot a second round score of 74 after shooting a two-under-par 70 in the first round. Adam Armagost of North Palm Beach, another first round co-leader at 70, shot a 74 in the second round to finish one stroke back, tied with Andy Zullo of Haines City at 145.

"I think I played very smart, conservative golf today," Knapp said of his second round performance. "You can't start gambling out here — I'm not going to gamble. On this course, you can't afford to. If you start taking chances, you can put yourself right out of the tournament."

Armagost dismissed the concept the course was that much more difficult than it was for the opening round.



"I don't think it was much tougher. It did play longer and the wind blew just a bit," said Armagost. "Still, I'm surprised no one broke 70; that's a tribute to the golf course. This is just an awesome course to play."

"I'm happy. I'm one shot out, and it's anybody's ball game."

Nine players had broken par in the first round, while only two players — Bob Sauerberg and Lenny Prozan — tied for Friday's low round at even-par 72. Sauerberg is two strokes back at 146 after an opening round of 74, while Prozan is eight strokes off the pace at 152.

Knapp experienced odd moments of fortune and misfortune in the second round, including one drive that struck a limb at full force and caromed about fifty yards behind the tee.

"I think I salvaged the round by at least making a birdie on the last hole," Knapp said. "I think the golf course and I are even at this point. I don't think the course owes me anything."

Armagost said his style of play through the next two rounds would depend on the circumstances and alignments of the course. "I going to have to hit the ball better and putt well. It all depends on where the pins are. If they're going to tuck them, I'm not going to go for them and risk anything."

"Whoever keeps his mind together and gets the lucky breaks is going to win this thing."

Twenty-nine players ended the first round within four strokes of the lead, while that number dwindled to 10 after Friday's round. Sauerberg's mark left him tied with Bryan Edwards and Jim Keedy at 146, while Mike Bradley, Pipp Patton and Pete Wofford were knotted at 147.

Bob Stockman, Tom Hearn, John Pallott, Mike Touhey, first round co-leader Craig Rouhier and Jack Veghte were five strokes back, tied at 149.

The FSGA state amateur championship's original field of 128 was cut Friday night to the top 60 players, plus any other players within 12 strokes of the lead. The 72-hole event will conclude Sunday.

Strange leadfellows: Knapp, Dawson 1 up at state amateur

By Bob Fowler

OF THE SENTINEL STAFF

HAINES CITY — There were some unusual sights during Friday's second round of the 66th annual Florida State Golf Association's men's amateur championship.

There was Marco Dawson, 19, from Fort Lauderdale who was competing despite a very swollen left knee resulting from an automobile accident last month. He couldn't take his normal stance, so he hit his shots with his feet virtually touching.

Yet Dawson, who entered the second day in a four-way tie for the lead, has a 36-hole total of 144 after a 2-over-par 74 Friday. The 144 is par for the Grenelefe West course and good enough to share the lead.

Then there was Tom Knapp, 36, a former All-American college soccer player who is president of an oil-drilling company in Tequesta. He was among the four sharing the first-round lead. He hit his drive on the 15th hole dead-solid perfect and saw it result in negative yardage — the ball striking a tree limb and caroming 50 yards behind the tee.

Yet, he also had a 74 for a 144 and is a co-leader. Adam Armagost (75) of North Palm Beach, one of the four tied for the first-round lead, and Andy Zullo (74) of Kissimmee, teammates at the University of Florida, were each a shot off the lead at 145. Leesburg attorney Jim Keedy (75), Lakeland's Bob Sauerberg (72) and Bryan Edwards (75) of Jacksonville were at 146. Craig Rouhier of Orange Park, the fourth golfer in the four-way tie for the first-round lead, shot a 79, survived the cut and is in a five-way tie for 11th at 149.

Please see GOLF, B-3



JUDY WATSON/SENTINEL

Adam Armagost lines up putt ... he shares second place.

The leaders

Marco Dawson	70-74—144
Tom Knapp	70-74—144

The followers

Adam Armagost	70-75—145
Andy Zullo	71-74—145
Bryan Edwards	71-75—146
Jim Keedy	71-75—146
Bob Sauerberg	74-72—146

Other area golfers

Craig Rouhier	70-79—149
Bob Stockman	72-77—149
Richard Etscorn	74-76—150

□ Complete scores ... page B-6

GOLF

From B-1

It was a delightful day for golf at the Grenelefe Golf and Tennis Resort, but the 6,900-yard course proved to be anything but a joy for the state's top amateurs. A score of 12-over 156 was needed to survive the cut, and only 60 players in the 128-man field did that.

Dawson was amazing to watch. He kept his left leg stiff when he walked to reduce the pain. His playing partners call him "Gimp," and offered cute suggestions, such as, "Let's run up to the green."

He said he missed at least half the greens in regulation, yet he scored well.

"About a week after the accident, I tried to play golf," said the 1-handicapper who is a member of the Florida Southern team. "I couldn't get the ball off the ground and thought I'd quit until I recovered.

"But the next day I went out and started hitting chips and putts. I did that for about a week. Then I used that stance, placing my feet together, and started playing that way.

"I've heard pros say it's good to practice that way, but I've never heard anyone say you should hit all your shots like that."

So, he's surprised at his showing in the State Amateur. And encouraged about his future.

"Maybe I needed something like this to happen to show me that distance isn't everything," Dawson said. "After I recover, I'm going to keep swinging easy, like I'm doing, now."

Knapp, meanwhile, was pounding shot after shot long distances. After 28 holes, he was 3-under.

But on No. 11, after a 320-yard drive, he hit a booming 3-wood and lost the ball. That led to a double bogey. After a bogey on No. 14, he was even par.

On the 380-yard 15th, he hit another booming drive. But the ball hit an overhanging limb, bounced over his head, hit a road and stopped near the 14th green.

"I've never had that happen, but at least it still was in play," Knapp said. "I hit a 1-iron, missed the green with a 4-iron, chipped within 3 feet and made the putt. It was a great bogey, considering it could have been an X."

He birdied the 18th to finish the two rounds at par.

□ Scores . . . page B-6



JUDY WATSON/SENTINEL

Co-leader Marco Dawson of Fort Lauderdale chips up to No. 18.

Wofford jumps into amateur lead

By STEVE LEWIS
Tribune Sports Writer

HAINES CITY — Pete Wofford of Palm Beach Gardens won his personal battle with par and consequently moved into the third-round lead of the Florida State Amateur Golf Championship Saturday afternoon at the Grenelefe Golf and Racquet Club West Course.

Wofford, 23, was the only player in the field who bettered par in the third round of this event with a 1-under 71. That enabled him to catapult from four shots off the second-round pace to the top of the leaderboard.

Going into today's final round, Wofford, a sales clerk at the PGA National Golf Club, had a 54-hole score of 219, 3-over-par. That was one stroke ahead of Tom Knapp, who had shared the lead in the previous two rounds of the 72-hole tournament.

Knapp, the president of an oil drilling company in Tequesta, had a 76-220.

Clearwater's Jack Veghte, who has won this event several times, was in a four-way tie for third place, two strokes off Wofford's pace. He shot 72-221.

Tied with Veghte were Andy Zullo of Kissimmee, who had a 76, Bryan Edwards of Jacksonville, who carded a 75, and second-round co-leader Marco Dawson of Fort Lauderdale with a 77.

Lakeland's Bob Sauerberg was seventh, four strokes off the lead, at 77-223.

The best Tampa area score was Pipp Patton's 79-227, eight strokes off the pace.

While most of the field struggled in vain trying to master the difficult West Course, which was shortened to

7,000 yards, Wofford took the advantage with his steady game.

Wofford had opened the tournament with a nifty 71, but then fell to a 77 the next day.

"My timing was off in the second round," he admitted. "The course was lengthened (from 6,900 to 7,200 yards) and I was trying to kill the ball."

Wofford's friend, Mike Harrison, who also is playing here, told him to stop dipping his shoulder in an attempt to generate more distance.

The correction gave Wofford immediate improvement.

He was out in 2-over 34 with birdie putts of 25 and 5-feet at the third and sixth holes.

But at the 458-yard 10th, Wofford faltered with a double bogey. He pulled his drive into the trees. Then, in an attempt to punch out into the fairway, he found a palmetto bush.

As it was, Wofford had to take a penalty stroke. Then, he wedged to the green and two-putted for double bogey.

However, he bounced back with birdies at the next two holes on putts of 15 and 4-feet.

Only a 3-putt bogey at the 18th kept him from taking a two-stroke lead on the field.

"My goal was to shoot par today (Saturday)," said Wofford, who has aspirations of becoming a professional. "I was just trying to keep the ball in play off the tee.

Other area scores follow: Bob May, Lakeland 74-225; Jerry Coren, Tampa 75-228; Bob Kouwe, Tampa 76-228; Dean Hiers, Lake Wales 73-229; Hunter Rhodes, Tampa 77-231; Bob Cornett, Tampa 78-232; Kevin Dyer Lake Placid 79-233; and Brian Hawke, Temple Terrace 79-233.



Tribune photo by DOUG CAVANAH
Third-round leader Pete Wofford watches his tee shot at the 18th during Saturday's play.



JUDY WATSON/SENTINEL

Rick Wofford's 1-under 71 earns him a slim lead in State Am.

State Amateur field aiming at Wofford

By Bob Fowler

OF THE SENTINEL STAFF

HAINES CITY — The Florida State Golf Association's 66th amateur championship is turning into quite a shootout.

Entering today's final round at Grenelefe Golf and Tennis Resort, here's the situation:

■ Pete Wofford, who works in the pro shop at PGA National in Palm Beach Gardens, has the 54-hole lead with a 3-over-par 219 total. He was one of only two players to break par Saturday on the Grenelefe West course, posting a 1-under 71.

■ Tom Knapp, the president of an oil-drilling firm in Tequesta and the co-leader after two rounds, is a shot behind Wofford at 220 after a 76 Saturday.

■ Marco Dawson, the 19-year-old Florida Southern College sophomore who is playing with a swollen left knee that causes him to use an unusual stance with his feet virtually together, shared the 36-hole lead. But the 6,900-yard course got to him Saturday ("It played much longer for me, I was chipping to practically every green and you can't do that and score.) as he posted a 77 that left him at 221.

■ Andy Zullo of Kissimmee, 19 and a sophomore member of the University of Florida's golf team, also was at 221 after a 76 that included an eagle-2 on the 390-yard 17th hole. "I hit a pitching wedge 121 yards, the ball bounced twice and rolled a foot into the center of the hole," he said. "I needed something to go right, and that saved the round."

■ Bryan Edwards of Jacksonville, another golf-playing student (Jacksonville University), also is in the foursome at 221 following a 75.

■ Jack Veghte of Clearwater, a three-time champi-

Please see STATE AM, D-8



Kissimmee's Andy Zullo
... he eagles 17 but shoots a 76.

JUDY WATSON/SENTINEL

STATE AM

From D-1

on (1968-70-75) in this event, matched par 72 Saturday and was at 221. "I could win it with another good round," he said. At 48, he's the oldest of the challengers and he said, "That's my handicap."

■ Adam Armagost of North Palm Beach, who is 20 and also a member of Florida's team, was one of four players tied for the lead after the first round. He was at 222 after a 75 Friday and a 77 Saturday.

Considering the move Wofford made in the third round — he started play 4 shots behind the co-leaders — there could be more than six contenders.

Lakeland's Bob Sauerberg is at 223. University of Miami player John Pallot, Bob Stockman of Altamonte Springs and Fort Lauderdale's Steve Onarati are at 224.

And Orlando's Rich Etscorn, also a member of Miami's team, is one of three players at 225 after a 75 Saturday that included an 8 on the par-4 14th.

With the leaders starting play today from 10:16 a.m. to 10:40 a.m., the championship eventually should be decided about 3 p.m.

Will there be a first-time winner, or will Veghte triumph for a fourth time?

Certainly, Wofford has an advantage, albeit slim, with his lead.

He's 23 and a graduate of Illinois State University, majoring in sports communications. He says if he



Tom Knapp
... staying hot on Rick Wofford's trail.

JUDY WATSON/SENTINEL

does well in Florida amateur tournaments, he'll consider becoming a professional and joining the Space Coast minitour before attempting to earn his PGA Tour playing card.

Otherwise, he'll try to become a sports information director at some university and continue playing golf as an amateur.

"After college (he graduated in 1981), I moved to

Florida and lived with my brother in Delray Beach," Wofford said. "I wasn't doing much except playing golf when he kicked me out of the house and told me to get a job.

"So, I started working in the cart shack at PGA National, then moved behind the counter in the pro shop."

In addition to selling caps and balls, he practices often and that may pay off with his most significant amateur victory.

Wofford started the third round at 148, 4 over par. While others were having problems in the heat and humidity, he birdied the third hole by sinking a 25-foot putt from the fringe and made a 5-footer at No. 6 for another birdie.

But on the 440-yard 10th hole, he pulled his drive into some trees and hit a tree as he attempted to chip out into the fairway.

"Lucky for me, an official was there and saw the ball go into a palmetto bush," Wofford said. "I took a drop (and a penalty stroke) and eventually double-bogeyed the hole."

He recovered quickly, sinking birdie putts for 12 and 3 feet on the next two holes. Then he 3-putted No. 18 for his 71.

"I kept the ball in play and made some key putts," Wofford said. "I'll try to do the same thing tomorrow."

As will others involved in this shootout. And the man who succeeds in avoiding Grenelefe's hazards probably will become the 1983 state amateur champion.

□ Results ... page D-10

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One Dollar

Knapp would not be denied in State Am at Grenelefe

BY ED HENDERSON

GRENELEFE

Determined not to allow negative thinking stop him in the 66th FSGA State Amateur like it had the previous week in the Palm Beach County Championship, Tom Knapp of Tequesta never looked back in winning the big one Sunday at Grenelefe West.

Knapp, the traveled 36-year-old oil-drilling firm president, shot 70-74-76-71 for a 3-over-par total of 291 and a two-shot victory over three-time champion Jack Veghte of Clearwater.

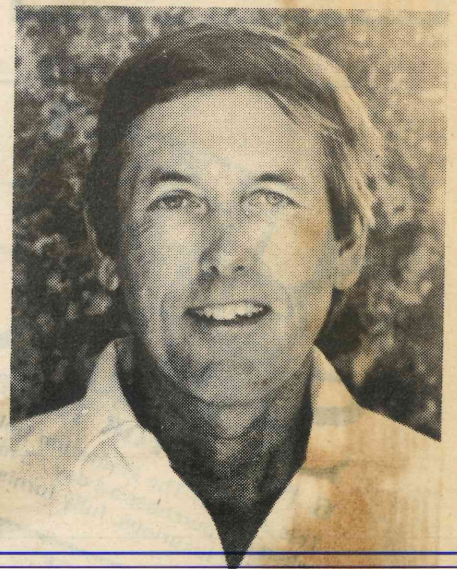
PETE WOFFORD of Palm Beach Gardens finished tied for third, five back, after leading after the third round. Also at 296 were Andy Zullo of Kissimmee and the University of Florida, young Michael Bradley of Sanibel Island, who closed with 69, and Jonn Pallot of Coral Gables, who was third last year at Bay Hill.

Heading into the final round, Wofford had a one-shot lead on Knapp and a two-shot edge over Veghte. Zullo, the amazing Marco Dawson of Fort Lauderdale and Bryan Edwards of Jacksonville. Adam Armogast of North Palm Beach, who took the PBC Amateur title Knapp had lost, was three behind, while Pallot was in a group five back.

For Wofford, Sunday's round was proof of



Tom Knapp



Jack Veghte

how cruel Grenelefe West can be from 6900 yards. He closed with 77.

Paired with Knapp and Dawson for the finale (Veghte was in the group just ahead), Wofford, the former Illinois State player who works in the PGA National pro shop, watched Knapp save par from eight feet on the long par-4 first hole. Knapp tied Wofford with a

25-foot birdie at the par-3 fourth, then Knapp took the lead at the par-5 fifth after Wofford miraculously saved bogey with a 30-foot downhiller following a tee shot to the left and subsequent unplayable lie.

CONT.

KNAPP WENT two shots up at the par-3 seventh with a 28-foot downhill birdie, while Wofford scrambled to save par from seven feet after missing the green short and right. At the par-5 eighth, Knapp picked up another shot, nearly holing a short pitch for eagle but then missing a six-footer for birdie. But Wofford three-putted from 27 feet and took bogey.

Apparently deflated by the three-putt, Wofford drove far right on the ninth, into the fairway on No. 1. He pitched over the trees then onto the green and snaked in another long putt, 35 feet, for a miracle par. But he was now two behind Knapp and had lost the front nine 38-35. A rather untidy double bogey by Wofford at 10 pushed him virtually out of the picture, although he did score an unbelievable birdie at the par-4 12th. His tee shot was wild to the right and came to rest at a point blocked by the pump station. He dropped and pitched over trees and brush, totally blind to the green. But he hit the target and then canned a 35-footer for birdie. But by then it was already too late.

Back at 11, Knapp had mishit his second shot. His ball stopped in trees and rough to the right but a spectator inadvertently kicked his ball while walking by, slightly improving his lie and line which enabled him to eventually save par.

Now it was between Veghte and Knapp, although Zullo was a factor briefly and Pallot made a move with a front-nine 35.

Veghte hit a gem of a second shot into No. 1 and parred the hole for the first time all week. He birdied No. 3 but bogeyed the fourth and posted 36 for the nine.

Knapp's lead was only one after he three-putted the 14th. Veghte tied it with a short birdie putt at 15, but Knapp would soon match that from two feet. Trailing by one, Veghte missed the green at the par-3 16th to the right. He chipped 10 feet past and missed his par

putt. Knapp hit his tee shot at 16 far, far to the right and had a blind pitch uphill. He hit it perfectly, just clearing a bunker by a foot and made the seven-footer for par. Knapp would save par again with his trusty wedge from the front bunker at 17 and then watch as Veghte burned the cup for birdie at 18. When Veghte missed, that settled it.

Knapp was incredibly long off the tee all day.

As he stood in the fairway at 15 and watched Veghte tie him, and heard the applause, he reinforced his determination to win.

"I had gotten this far and planned to win. I said I wasn't going to let him beat me."

Knapp thanked friend and golf-car caddie for the week, Dick Aldred, the mayor of Palm Beach Gardens, for straightening out his swing after the third round.

"I was lined up to the right with my feet and to the left with my shoulders," Knapp said. "And I was swinging so fast. I hit balls for an hour, then I hit eight greens on the front. If it wasn't for him, I would have been all over the world again today."

Knapp is an interesting, gregarious fellow. He was raised in St. Louis and first came to Florida in 1965. He worked at the PGA course which is now JDM CC.

GROWING UP in America's top town for soccer, Knapp learned the sport well and was a member of the national championship team at Florissant Valley Community College. He took up the game at age 6 and counts among his friends many pro soccer players. He earned a soccer scholarship to the University of South Florida in Tampa and also played golf there.

Knapp served in the Vietnam Conflict as a helicopter gunner. He has held pro golf status twice, and the second time he sued the USGA to speed up the process to regain his amateur status, getting it back again in May of '82. He took up golf seriously when he came back from Vietnam. He's been an assistant pro and mini-tour player and sold insurance before establishing the oil firm, which drills primarily in Michigan.

It's IDEX Corporation in North Palm Beach.

Golf began clicking for Knapp after he attended a Jack Nicklaus clinic. Jack advised to work the ball rather than try to hit it straight. Knapp would later become friends with Nicklaus' clubmaker, Jack Wulkotte, in North Palm Beach, which is where Knapp's beloved sand wedge came from. It is one Jack didn't care for.

Knapp won the Palm Beach County Amateur in '82 and, as mentioned earlier, was runner-up this year, to Adam Armagost, a University of Florida player. Knapp gave it away with a three-putt on the last hole. He had led by three with four to play.

"All that week, I was thinking negatively. I didn't think I could win," he said. "It was different here. This means a lot to me. It's one

of the hardest amateur tournaments in country to win. Fifteen players could have won."

COURSE MANAGEMENT, Knapp says, is the best part of his game. And what used to be the worst part, putting and getting it close from 100 yards in, has really come around.

Now he dreams of playing in the Masters as an amateur and in some other national events. Earn a place on the Walker Cup team perhaps.

His home course is Eastlakes CC, where he often plays with Bill Collins of PGA Senior Tour fame. Knapp used to play and sometimes beat Jim Holtgrieve during his St. Louis days. He loves the competition, but he'll never play pro again.

"I'll just keep drilling oil wells and teach my kids (4) to play golf."

Son Tommy just won the Martin County Junior.

"I have no aspirations to be a pro again. My stomach ate me up here for four days, so I don't want to go through that all the time again."

Knapp knew how to play Grenelefe West, which was in its usual immaculate shape. Florida's top-rated course must be played delicately.

"I gambled once all week and lost a can," Knapp said. "You gamble on this course and you make 6s and 8s. If you get in trouble, you just pitch it out into the fairway and take bogey."

Veghte, 48, the FSGA vice president, was seeking to add a fourth title to the state championships he won in '68, '70 and '75. Dawson, who plays at Florida Southern College, deserved a special award for playing in the face of adversity. A recent auto accident left him with a knee injury, which is on the mend. But the only way he could swing effectively was with his feet virtually together. Dawson and Knapp shared the 36-hole lead at even-par 144.

Many of the state's top amateurs, including last year's winner, Lee Rinker of Stuart, and runner-up, Tim Fieldhouse of Sarasota, could not compete this year because they were playing in the NCAA nationals.

- Held June 9-12 at Grenefe West; par 72, 6900 yards
- 291 (3 over)—Tom Knapp, Tequesta, 70-74-76-71
 293—Jack Veghte, Clearwater, 73-76-72
 296—Pete Wofford, Palm Beach Gardens, 72-76-71-77; Andy Zullo, Kissimmee, 71-74-76-75; John Pallot, Coral Gables, 73-76-75-72; Michael Bradley, Sanibel Island, 74-74-79-69
 299—Marco Dawson, Fort Lauderdale, 70-74-77-78; Adam Armagost, North Palm Beach, 70-75-77-77; Bryan Edwards, Jacksonville, 71-75-75-78
 300—Richard Etscorn, Orlando, 74-76-75-75
 301—Bob Sauerberg, Lakeland, 72-72-77-78; Bobby Dick, Tallahassee, 76-74-78-73; Bob Kouwe, Tampa, 73-79-76-73
 302—Bob Stockman, Altamonte Springs, 72-77-75-78; Ron Tumlin, Palatka, 74-78-75-75
 303—John Ward, Winter Park, 76-75-78-74; Peter Williams, Longwood, 78-77-75-73; Nolan Henke, Fort Myers, 76-79-71-77; Pipp Patton, Temple Terrace, 71-77-79-76; Bob May, Lakeland, 71-80-74-78
 304—Michael Arisin, Juno Beach, 75-79-72-78
 305—Tom Hearn, Fort Pierce, 72-77-79-77
 306—Frank Souchak, Largo, 77-76-74-79; Martin Stanovich, Tamarac, 74-76-78-78; Ron McCann, Orlando, 75-80-73-78; Gary Onorati, Fort Lauderdale, 73-77-74-82; Jim Keedy, Lakeland, 71-75-79-81
 307—Hunter Rhodes, Tampa, 75-79-77-76; Steve LaMontagne, Satellite Beach, 77-77-77-76; Steve Greek, Fern Park, 75-77-78-77
 308—Steve Carafford, Orlando, 73-78-77-80; Bob May, Lakeland, 71-80-74-80; Lenny Prozan, Bradenton, 80-72-78-78; Jerry Coren, Tampa, 72-81-75-80
 309—Bob Cornett, Tampa, 78-76-78-77; Dean Hiers, Lake Wales, 78-78-73-80
 310—Len Mattiace, Ponte Vedra, 76-77-82-75; Mark Bucek, Winter Park, 81-75-77-77
 311—Bill Erwin, Jupiter, 76-75-81-79; Ricky Bealert, Orlando, 76-75-76-84
 312—Bob Rankin, Clearwater, 76-77-80-79; Jay Paquette, Leesburg, 78-78-82-74; Mike Domalske, Sarasota, 74-77-80-81
 313—Brian Hawke, Temple Terrace, 78-76-79-80; Bill McCormick, Margate, 76-79-76-82; Robert Milich, Fort Lauderdale, 77-78-78-80; Brett James, Stuart, 75-76-81-81; Don Burwell, Miami Lakes, 73-82-82-76
 314—Louie Mitrovich, Orlando, 73-79-80-82; Jack Shubert, Altamonte Springs, 80-76-79-79; Austin Jones, Orlando, 77-79-80-78; Kevin Dyer, Lake Placid, 75-79-79-81
 316—Thomas Moliman, Lantana, 76-77-82-81; W.R. Pinkley, Port Orange, 75-79-75-87
 317—Keith Keister, Orlando, 74-81-78-84; Craig Rouhier, Orange Park, 70-79-85-83; Steve Busboom, Boca Raton, 80-76-78-83
 322—John Reynolds, Palm Beach Gardens, 78-78-80-86
 WD—Jim Arnold, Green Cove Springs, 75-78; Hap Peronett, Fort Myers, 78-78-82

Missed Cut

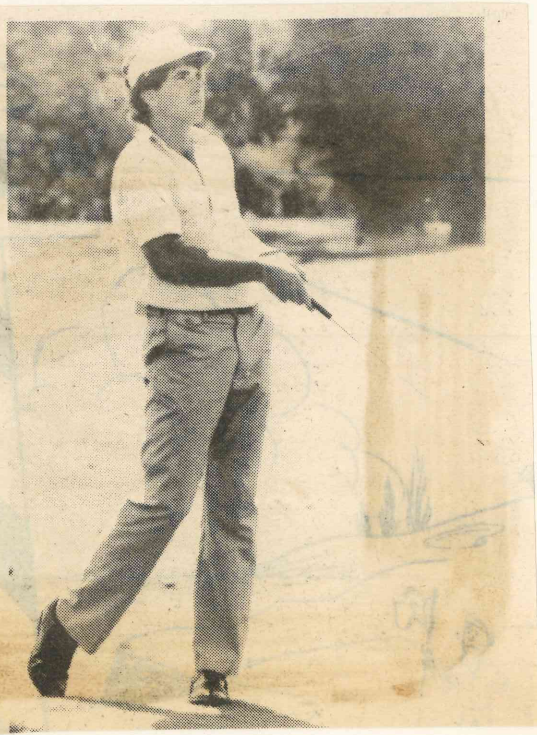
- 157 (13 over)—David Brown, Gainesville, 75-82; Tracy Allen, Winter Park, 76-81; Rick Fletcher, Dunedin, 76-81; Dwaine Roney, Fort Myers, 77-80; Tim Keeney, Lakeland, 77-80; Damon Green, Pensacola, 78-79; Bill Byrne, Oviédo, 82-75
 158—Steve Czupka, Orlando, 74-84; Kevin Battersby, Delray Beach, 75-83; John Reeves, Winter Park, 76-82; George McCoy, Bartow, 78-80; Mark Pittenger, Casselberry, 79-79;

- Tom Krystyn, Jacksonville, 79-79; Jerry MacDonald, Lakeland, 85-73
 159—Robert Hughes, Fort Myers, 74-85; Gary Fischer, Plantation, 76-83; David Boesel, Winter Park, 77-82; David Kartner, Stuart, 77-82; David Adams, West Palm Beach, 78-81; Randy Popp, Melbourne, 79-80; Jim Nosewicz, Tampa, 80-79; Randy Briggs, Ocala, 80-79; Bill Golson, Belleair, 80-79; Rick Taylor, St. Petersburg, 82-77
 160—David Thielen, Haines City, 76-84; Paul Tarnow, Tampa, 80-80; Angel Balcarcel, Fort Myers, 80-80; Brian Plafock, Jacksonville, 81-79; Curt Saathoff, Orlando, 84-76; Christopher Hehmann, Orlando, 84-76
 161—Steve Valovar, Miami, 78-83; Ken Alfey, West Palm Beach, 78-83; Mountie Bedford, Pensacola, 79-82; David Popp, Melbourne, 81-80; John Atwood, Longwood, 81-80
 162—John Walbridge, Port Orange, 78-84; John Burdin, Lakeland, 78-84; Jim Fee, Lakeland, 84-78; Allan Parrish, Windemere, 84-78
 163—Jon Rubuch, Winter Park, 81-82; Charles Sullivan, Vero Beach, 81-82; Jerry Reymond, Ormond Beach, 84-79
 164—Steve Carman, Orange Park, 80-84; Les Veech, Windemere, 81-83
 165—Steve Ford, Melbourne, 79-86; Chris Bateman, Apopka, 80-85; Tom Pelegrin, Sarasota, 80-85
 166—Gary Martinet, Winter Springs, 83-83; Casey Cox, Clearwater, 84-82; Rusty Ambler, Jupiter, 84-82
 167—Mike Owens, Jacksonville, 84-83; Mark Sterritt, Ponte Vedra, 85-82
 168—Todd Spenla, Sarasota, 83-85
 170—Dave Robertson, Orlando, 81-89
 171—Alan Hiers, Lake Wales, 82-89; Lee Bennett, Port Charlotte, 84-87; Lonnie Watson, St. Petersburg, 87-84
 172—Patrick Keeley, Melbourne, 83-89; David Henderson, DeFuniak Springs, 85-87
 174—Scott Holman, Sarasota, 87-87
 177—Robert Westring, Holly Hill, 93-84
 NC—Terry Crick, St. Petersburg, 79; David Snyder, Winter Haven, 81; Gary Kraft, Fort Myers, 82
 NS—Tommy Lee, Brandon, 86
 WD—Tom Cook, Bradenton, 86; Nicholas Gibala, Orlando, 88



At Grenelefe

Clockwise, runner-up Jack Veghte of Clearwater almost won his fourth; Pete Wofford led after 54 holes; champion Tom Knapp, and Marco Dawson, who brought back memories of Jimmy Demaret and Cary Middlecoff with his forced narrow stance.





Houdini Lives

Pete Wofford of Palm Beach Gardens kept his cool and pulled off some magic Sunday in the final round of the FSGA State Amateur at Grenelefe West. His tee shot sailed long but far right at No. 12 and all but flew into the pump station about 40 yards from the green. He was allowed relief since the obstruction interfered with his swing (far left). He dropped at the nearest point of relief (right photo) and pitched over the jungle and onto the green, where he sank a 35-foot putt for a birdie-3. But first, he and an FSGA official had a look and got the all-clear. Not once did Wofford swear before his great escape.

Knapp grabs state amateur

By STEVE LEWIS
Tribune Sports Writer

HAINES CITY — Transmitting the power of positive thinking into his golf swing, Tom Knapp of Tequesta captured the 66th annual Florida State Amateur Championship Sunday afternoon at the Grenelefe Golf and Racquet Club West Course.

Knapp, the president of an oil and gas well drilling company, struck a gusher with a final round 1-under-par 71 that provided him with a 2-stroke cushion over Jack Veghte of Clearwater.

"I've been telling myself all week I could win it," said Knapp, obviously pleased with his victory. "I knew I had the game to do it."

The problem was that Knapp knew Veghte, a three-time winner of this event, also could do it.

After nine holes of the final round, both Knapp and Veghte had caught Pete Wofford of Palm Beach Gardens, the third-round leader.

Wofford had to make two 40-foot putts on the front nine to save a 2-over 38.

Meanwhile, Knapp, who had started the day one stroke behind Wofford, made the turn in 1-under 35 and had a two-stroke advantage. He had strung eight pars and a birdie at the 230-yard fourth with an 18-foot putt.

Veghte, who had begun the last round two strokes behind Wofford and one behind Knapp, was out in 36. So, he was tied with Wofford and two off Knapp's pace.

Then, the fun began.

Wofford played himself out of the hunt en route to a back nine 3-over 39.

However, Veghte closed to one stroke of

championship

Knapp when the latter three-putted the 14th hole for bogey.

The telling blows were struck at the 380-yard 15th and the 230-yard 16th holes.

Veghte, playing in the threesome ahead of Knapp, birdied the 15th to tie Knapp. But Knapp responded with a sand wedge approach that stopped 3-feet from the flag. The birdie putt put him in the lead again.

Then, at the par 3 16th, Veghte missed the green and bogeyed. Knapp also missed the green, but got up and down from 35 yards with a miraculous pitch with stopped 4-feet from the flag.

The two players parred out from there enabling Knapp to win.

"This is the biggest thing I've ever won," said Knapp, who was the Palm Beach County Amateur Champion last year.

Knapp's winning 72-hole score was 291, 3 over par. Veghte was second at 72-293.

Then came a foursome at 8-over 296. Included in that group were Wofford, who had a last-round 77, Mike Bradley of Sanibel, who shot the lowest round of the tournament with a 3-under 69, Andy Zullo of Kissimmee, who had a 75, and John Pallot of Coral Gables with a 72.

Three players were tied for seventh, including Florida Southern College junior Marco Dawson at 78-299.

Leading the Tampa-area contingent were Bob Sauerberg of Lakeland at 78-301 and Bob Kouwe of Tampa at 73-301. They tied for 11th.

But the silver cup belonged to Knapp who had shared the lead in both the first and second rounds, shooting 70-74—154, even par. Knapp appeared to be floundering after a 4-over 76 dropped him one stroke behind Wofford's 54-hole pace.

"Yesterday (Saturday) was the key," said Knapp. "I had started out with a 40 (4-over-par) on the front nine and was facing a potential 80. But I birdied 16 and 17 and managed a 76 instead."

Then, he listened to the advice of Dick Aldred, the mayor of Palm Beach Gardens, and solved his swing problems.

"Dick is a good friend of mine and he had come up here to caddy for me in the last two rounds," said Knapp, a former mini-tour player, who regained his amateur status last year. "Right away he spotted my problem before the third round, but I found it hard to believe someone who had just arrived."

After the third round, Knapp went straight to the practice tee. "My alignment was so bad and I was swinging so fast," he said.

That cured, he began the final round by pushing a tee shot into the rough. But he salvaged par with a 12-foot putt.

"That was a heckuva way to come out of the box," said Knapp. "That got me going."

Other Tampa-area scores included: Pipp Patton, Temple Terrace 76-303; Bob May, Lakeland 78-303; Hunter Rhodes, Tampa 76-307; Jerry Coren, Tampa 80-308; Bob Cornett, Tampa 77-309; Dean Hiers, Lake Wales 80-309; Brian Hawke, Temple Terrace 80-313; and Kevin Dyer, Lake Placid 81-314.



Tom Knapp studies a green on his way to capturing the state amateur golf championship Sunday.

Tribune photo by MACK GOETHE

Sand wedge, tip help Knapp win State Amateur

By Bob Fowler

OF THE SENTINEL STAFF

HAINES CITY — Tom Knapp is the Florida State Golf Association's 1983 amateur champion. He's 36 and, perhaps, the most interesting winner in the event's 66-year history.

Knapp was a two-time junior college All-American soccer player. He was a helicopter gunner, serving a year in Viet Nam. Twice he became a professional golfer and had his amateur status reinstated two times by the United States Golf Association — regain-

Seve eagles 18th to win: D-3

ing it again in May 1982 after suing the USGA.

Now, he's president of an oil-drilling company in Tequesta. And he's the state amateur champion, thanks to a sand wedge formerly owned by Jack Nicklaus and a tip from a friend who is the mayor of Palm Beach Gardens.

Knapp shot a 1-under-par 71 in Sunday's final round on the Grenadele Golf and Tennis Resort's west course to finish the 72-hole event with a 3-over 291 total. He edged Clearwater's Jack Veghte, a three-time former champion, by 2 strokes.

"I was all over the world," Knapp said of Saturday's third-round 76. "Dick Aldred (the mayor) noticed I wasn't lining up right. So I went to the practice tee and hit balls for an hour. And today I concentrated on squaring up to the ball and slowing down my

swing."

That enabled him to hit some spectacular shots in winning the most significant tournament in his golfing career — professional, or amateur.

As a youth in St. Louis, Knapp was a soccer star. He didn't participate in golf until he was 14, and then only played the game for fun. After he was graduated from high school, he decided to make golf his profession and became a club assistant in Chicago. That job lasted a year because he was drafted into the army and stationed in Viet Nam.

When he returned, he attended junior college in St. Louis, regaining his amateur status from the USGA so that he could play soccer. Two years later, he received a soccer scholarship to the University of South Florida.

Ironically, that was when his golf started improving. Following graduation from USF, Knapp played on the Tampa minitour. But he was unsuccessful, saying, "I had no short game. I was terrible from 100 yards in, and I couldn't putt."

He became an insurance salesman and applied for a second reinstatement of his amateur status. The USGA said he would have to wait five years to regain it and he sued the golf organization. The situation took almost five years to resolve and during that time he formed his oil-drilling firm.

While Knapp's golf game was better than average, he still was having problems within 100

Please see KNAPP, D-3

yards. Seeking help, he saw a friend who designs clubs for MacGregor.

"He gave me an old sand wedge of Nicklaus'," Knapp said. "He said Jack didn't like it, but I love it. It has helped my game tremendously, but I still can't putt."

He started the final 18 holes a shot behind third-round leader Pete Wofford. He birdied the fourth hole to tie for the lead and moved into first place when Wofford bogeyed No. 5.

By the 14th hole, all challengers had slipped out of contention except 48-year-old Veghte.

After Knapp bogeyed No. 14 and Veghte birdied No. 15, they shared the lead.

"I saw Jack make that birdie from the fairway," said Knapp, recalling the 380-yard hole. "I said to myself, 'You've come this far, you're not going to let him beat you.'"

He then used his sand wedge to hit the ball 120 yards to within 2 feet of the cup for a birdie. When Veghte missed the green and bogeyed No. 16, Knapp had a 2-shot lead.

He used his trusty wedge to save scrambling pars on the 16th and 17th before finishing with a routine par on No. 18. Then he talked about his future — he hopes to qualify in 1984 for the U.S. Open and to compete in this year's U.S. Amateur.

If Tom Knapp does, he'll take his sand wedge with him. Maybe his friend, the mayor, too.

□ Scores . . . page D-6



GORDON WILLIAMSON/SENTINEL

Most of his shots got spectacular reviews, but Tom Knapp winces over this one.