

# Palma Ceia site for state mid-amateur

One of the state's rare amateur match-play events will be played in Tampa next week when Palma Ceia Country Club plays host to the Florida State Golf Association's Mid-Amateur Championship.

The state tournament for amateurs age 25 and older will have a field of 100 players who advanced from 11 qualifying sites. Play begins Thursday with 18 holes of stroke play. The top 32 players advance to the match-play segment of the tournament Friday. The championship final tees off Sunday at 8 a.m.

And with the tournament's arrival at Palma Ceia comes local hope.

Palma Ceia, the historic **Donald Ross** venue, has proved to be a great frustration. The par-70 course plays at a unimposing 6,200 yards, but with small greens and out of bounds on the left side of many holes, it gives up birdies like they are old family heirlooms.

Local knowledge could be the best weapon in a player's bag.

"There is no question in my mind, anybody who knows that golf course and has played there over the years has an absolute, no-question-about-it advantage," said **Bob Kouwe**, who just happens to be a past winner of the Palma Ceia-hosted Gasparilla Invitational.

"The name of the game at Palma Ceia is going out and making pars, and if you do, your opponent will self-destruct. If you don't know better, you think it's a little 6,200-yard course and you're going to make birdie after birdie. But it never happens."

If Kouwe's theory holds true, it is reason for high expectations, not only for himself, but area players **Wyatt Meyer**, **Doug LaCrosse**, **Bob Thaxton**, **Frank Griffin**, **Max Castro**, **Rick Brown** and **Stuart Sierra**, who have played the course.

Other Hillsborough players entered include **Pete Andrews**, **Frank Griffin**, **David Hackstadt**, **Brian Hawke**, **David Langdon**, **Sam Lewis**, **Chris Matics**, **Joe McCandrew**, **Doug Reintgen**, **Mark Rodriguez** and **Bob Smith**.

Pinellas golfers who qualified include **Rick Anderson**, **Mike Barkley**, **Tim Cyr**, **Kevin Dyer**, **Jack Gleason**, **Jake Kevorkian**, **Chris Maxson**, **David McDowell**, **Scott Ranney**, **Tommy Roe** and **Scott Sabadosh**.

The eccentrics of Palma Ceia aside, the match-play format itself could be a confounding experience for many players. Unlike stroke-play events, what a player scores on a specific hole is not important. What is important is what he scores compared to his opponent.

"Some people say you have to just play your own game and let the chips fall," Meyer said. "But it's a lot different. If your opponent hits it out of bounds right in front of you, there is no reason to hit a driver where you might knock it

## GOLF

Mick Elliott

out of bounds, too. Take a 4-iron, lay up and make bogey and you're probably going to win the hole. There is no reason to be trying to make birdie if the guy is making a 6 or 7.

"There's a lot of strategy and a lot of fun. You're not just playing the golf course, you've got to play your opponent."

Winter Haven's **Bruce Scamehorn** is the defending champion, winning the championship last year at The Loxahatchee Club in Jupiter.

Now it comes to Palma Ceia for the first time.

"We have not done anything like this in ages," Palma Ceia professional **Gil Gonsalves** said. "It's probably back to the '50s since we've hosted any Florida State Golf Association events. So it's our turn. It's our duty to give back something to golf."

■ ■ ■

When **Wyatt Meyer** birdied the final hole Sunday at Innisbrook to claim a one-stroke victory against **Rennie Law** in the Bill Currie Ford Invitational, it continued an amazing year for the 45-year-old amateur.

It began in February with a victory in an 18-hole "Tough Day Tournament," at Avila. Then he finished fifth in the Gasparilla Invitational, won his second consecutive Avila Club Championship, finished second in the Henry Camp in Ocala, successfully defended his Tangerine Invitational title in Brooksville, played on Avila's state club championship team, qualified for the U.S. Amateur as co-medalists and last week successfully defended his Bill Currie title to win the event for the third time.

"I'm getting better with age, I guess," Meyer said. "I don't know. It's kind of funny how it has happened all of a sudden. I guess it just took a while to learn how to win. I started the game late, so the more I play in tournaments and experience being in the last group, the more you learn how to be patient."

Playing on all three Innisbrook courses, Meyer shot 76-73-71—220 to edge Law's 75-76-70—221. **Dick Moore** was third thanks to a tournament-low 68 on the final day after opening 79-80.

■ ■ ■

**Around the Green:** It took a final-round 63 by **Gary Nicklaus** to defeat Tampa's **Eddie Pearce** last week in the Golf Coast Pro Golf Tour Challenge Cup at Emerald Dunes in Palm Beach. Pearce, who shot 70-67-67-69—273, had a two-stroke lead entering the final round. The runner-up finish earned Pearce \$12,000 and he finished the 16-event South Florida golf tour with

\$43,691 and will go back to PGA Te School next month feeling good. He had a first-round bye and begin second round at Palm Beach's Bear Lakes, the site which he advanced into the finals to win. He went on to earn his tour card a way away from the game.

"I've been working with **Dave Raton**, trying to improve my swing," Pearce said. "I'm just where I want to be driving the ball real well, I'm comfortable with the long putter and I've been grinding the short game." ...

After a mild heart attack took him to the U.S. Mid-Amateur, **Doug LaCrosse** had a stress test Wednesday and began his recovery Thursday. ...

Mystery shoppers visited more than 100 shops and golf specialty stores nationwide to carry three or more of five major brands of golf balls. From that shopping spree, professional **Jimmy King** was selected as the "It Pays to Carry Ultra" winner. King was awarded a \$50,000 prize, but the money will be divided among his golf professional staff and a donation made to the Greater Tampa Junior Golf Association. ...

How about Carrollwood member **Eric** week? On Tuesday, he played at World Club and had a hole-in-one. On Thursday, he had another ace while playing at World Club. On Friday, he returned to his home course and eagled a par 4. ...

**Faxon Bissett** and **C.C. Marston** teamed up for a best-ball gross 69 to win the Tampa Bay Open. **Todd Alley** and **Rick Pennington** teamed with a 63. ... **John Benton** had a hole-in-one at Babe Zaharias, with a 3-iron shot 100 yards out at the 510-yard No. 6. ...

**Roberta Albers-Speer** has secured a spot in the annual four-session Fall Women's Club Championship's Driving Range at North Lakes on Oct. 30 and Nov. 6 and 13. The hourlong sessions will be from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Cost for the sessions is \$76. Call 968-6785. ...

A complimentary women's golf tournament is sponsored by Tampa Sports and Saddlebrook on Oct. 9 from 3 to 5 p.m. at the rescue center on Road 54. **Arnold Palmer Golf Association** will conduct the event. **Mike Damron** will conduct the event with golf department, 886-0591 or 261-1111. ...

Tickets for the JCPenney Classic are on sale Oct. 29 at all area stores, the tournament office at 942-5500 or any of the 14 tournament charities. The team event is Dec. 1-4 with a field of 100 players. **Arnold Palmer-Tammie Gree** will be the featured player. **Mochrie-Dave Stockton Jr.**, **Beau Love III** and **Laura Dav Feherty**.

Former Lion

TOP FLITE

## Meyer high and dry at Mid-Amateur

TAMPA — The golf tournament won't be decided until Sunday, but one victory was declared Thursday. Palma Ceia Country Club officially has defeated the season.

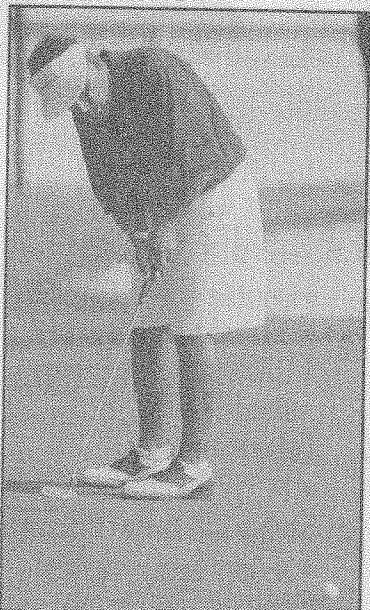
The course was all but under a week ago. But a couple of days of sunshine and a lot of work by superintendent Peter Scamhorn whipped the course in shape for the Florida State Golf Association's Mid-Amateur Championship.

If anything, it was too shape. Tampa's Wyatt Meyer was the player to break par in the opening round. His 69 on the tight 70 course led the field of 100 the state's top amateurs 25 and older.

The top 32 advanced to match play today. Two rounds of match play today and Saturday will set a twosome showdown Sunday.

"The guy who finished 32nd [Thursday] has as much chance of winning as the guy who finished first," Meyer said.

Not if the guy who finished 32nd keeps playing the way he did Thursday. Meyer's precision driving (he hit 11 of 14 fairways with driver) kept him out of the trouble that has grown thick in the



JIM REED/Tribune photo

**Defending champion Bruce Scamehorn sinks a birdie putt on the second hole.**

past few weeks.

"This is the first time I can remember them having rough out here," Meyer said. "But the course is in great shape. I didn't have a bad lie all day."

— DAVID WHITLEY

# LaCrosse, Corzilius square off for title

A Staff, Wire Service Report

TAMPA — And then there were two. Unless a third pops into the picture.

Doug LaCrosse of Tampa and John Corzilius of Nokomis survived two rounds of match play Saturday and will play today for the Florida State Golf Association's Mid-Amateur Championship.

The event at Palma Ceia Country Club, which began Thursday with 100 golfers, features the state's best amateurs 25 years and older. LaCrosse beat defending champion Bruce Scamehorn of Winter Haven 6-5 in Saturday's quarterfinal.

He clinched his semifinal win over George Roat of Windemere when Roat missed 20-foot birdie putt on No. 18 that would have sent the match into overtime.

Corzilius rallied from three holes down with four left to defeat Orlando's Jeff Lindquist in the quarterfinals. He then eased past Tampa's Wyatt Meyer 4-3 in the semifinal. Between rounds, he checked the pro shop to see if his wife had called.

Corzilius has been driving back to his home near Sarasota every night because his wife is eight months pregnant.

Barring premature developments, he said he'll be back for today's 8 a.m. start.

## GOLF

land to lift the American team into the Dunhill Cup semifinals.

The American trio will face England, which won all nine of its matches in the first three rounds, in one semifinal today.

## Player, 3 others share lead at Transamerica

NAPA, Calif. — Gary Player played bogey-free golf to share the lead with three others after the second round of the \$600,000 Transamerica Golf Championship at Silverado Country Club.

Player, Butch Baird, Tommy Aycock and Jay Sigel are at 8-under-par 136.

## Elsewhere

■ At Miyoshi, Japan, Corey Pavin shot a 68 to regain the lead entering the final round of the \$1.1 million Tokai Classic Golf tournament.

■ At La Boulie, France, Tiger Woods regained his swing after getting a tip from a golf writer, and his 5-under-par 67 boosted the U.S. team back into the lead of the World Amateur Team Championships.

■ At Osage Beach, Mo., Drue Johnson of Tarpon Springs shot his

**1994 STATE MID-AMATEUR  
CHAMPIONSHIP  
PALMA CEIA G&CC, TAMPA  
OCTOBER 6-9, 1994**

**FIRST ROUND RESULTS  
(STROKE PLAY)  
QUALIFIERS FOR MATCH PLAY**

Wyatt Meyer	Tampa	69
Steve Riviere	Apopka	70
Charlie Polk	Lake Wales	70
Sam Lewis	Tampa	71
John Corzilius	Nokomis	71
Doug LaCrosse	Tampa	71
David Boesel	Winter Park	71
Ron Ferguson	Orlando	72
Chris Matics	Valrico	72
David Kartner	Palm City	72
Mike Freeman	Riverview	72
Peter Hartmann	Ft. Myers	73
Eric Schreiber	West Palm Beach	73
Ron Leclair	Fern Park	73
John Downs	Tampa	73
Kevin Dyer	Clearwater	73
Mike Barkley	Clearwater	73
George Roat	Windermere	73
Bruce Scamehorn	Winter Haven	73
David McDowell	Palm Harbor	74
Marc Rosenbaum	Pembroke Lakes	74
Rick Kerper	Clearwater	74
Rob Madigan	Orlando	74
Chip Hitt	Longwood	74
Max Castro	Tampa	74
Tim Blau	St. Augustine	74
Bobby Barben	Avon Park	74
Rick Cloninger	Orlando	74
*Jeff Lindquist	Orlando	75
*Carter Parry	Sarasota	75
*Pinky Pelham	Tallahassee	75
*Jim Stone	Sarasota	75

\* Won play-off for final spots

**NON-QUALIFIERS**

Paul Melson	Plantation	75
Doug Reintgen	Tampa	76
Skip Lujack	Brandon	76
Timothy Cyr	St. Petersburg	76
Jeff Cochran	Orlando	76
Skipper Henderson	Bronson	76
Jack Higgs	Tampa	76
Gary Keymont	Orlando	76
Bill Harvey	Palm Beach Gardens	76
David Hackstadt	Tampa	76
Rick Woulfe	Ft. Lauderdale	76
Tom Perrin	Tallahassee	76
Tim O'Neal	St. Augustine	77
Patrick Maloney	Ft. Lauderdale	77
Steve Earsley	Wellington	77
Frank Strafacci	Miami Beach	77
Joe Eubank	Daytona Beach	77
A.J. Kroeger	Apopka	77
Peter Fayerman	West Palm Beach	77
Mike Howery	Maitland	77
John Piotti	St. Petersburg	77
Randy Briggs	Ocala	77
Tracy Allen	Winter Park	77
Bob Kouwe	Tampa	77
Mark Rodriguez	Tampa	77
Reece Lopucki	Gainesville	78
Don Whittington	Ft. Lauderdale	78
Bill Moulton	Orlando	78
Stuart Sierra	Tampa	78
Brian Hawke	Temple Terrace	78
Rick Anderson	Clearwater	78
Vincent Draddy	West Palm Beach	78
Tim Tremblay	Winter Park	78
Tom Vickers	Port Orange	79
Joe McCandrew	Tampa	79
Bob Thaxton	Tampa	79
Chip Hurd	Coral Springs	79
Frank Griffin	Tampa	79
Scott Ranney	St. Petersburg	79
Tommy Roe	Largo	79
Pete Andrews	Valrico	79
Chris Maxson	Tarpon Springs	79
Kevin Morvant	Coconut Creek	79
Jack Gleason	Palm Harbor	79
Lou Mattiace	Jacksonville	80
Jake Kervorkian	Clearwater	80
George Rodriguez	Stuart	80
Frank O'Hara	Longwood	80
Jaime Dornbusch	N. Miami Beach	80
Larry Wooten	Miami	80

Roger Dorio	Port St. Lucie	81
Larry Black	Apopka	81
Jim Downs	Ft. Lauderdale	81
John Penniman	Boca Raton	81
Todd Martin	Lakeland	81
Don Dye	Tallahassee	81
John Turner	Palm City	81
Randy Lentz	Sarasota	81
Nevin Ashe	Sarasota	81
John Whitehead	Sebring	81
Dann Merrell	West Palm Beach	82
Ken Craig	Lighthouse Point	82
Brad Bettin	Melbourne	83
David Langdon	Temple Terrace	83
Lee Bennett	Sarasota	83
Dwaine Roney	Ft. Myers	83
Joseph Andriole	Orlando	84
Peter Vajda	Naples	84
Hugh Quinn	Orlando	85
Jeff Abbott	Naples	85
Ray Parlade	Daytona Beach	86
Keith Keister	Orlando	86
Ron Fanaro	Vero Beach	87
Michael Wallen	Orlando	88
Robert Frechette	Ft. Pierce	88
Sheldon Ecklund	West Palm Beach	88
Sam Garber	Lakeland	92

## SECOND ROUND

Meyer def. Barkley	5-4
Hitt def. Ferguson	19 holes
Lindquist def. McDowell	5-4
Corzilius def. Rosenbaum	2-1
Roat def. Riviere	19 holes
Boesel def. Kartner	19 holes
Scamehorn def. Polk	3-2
LaCrosse def. Freeman	1-up

## QUARTERFINALS

Meyer def. Hitt	8-7
Corzilius def. Lindquist	1-up
Roat def. Boesel	20 holes
LaCrosse def. Scamehorn	6-5

## SEMIFINALS

Corzilius def. Meyer	4-3
LaCrosse def. Roat	1-up

## FINAL

Corzilius def. LaCrosse	3-2
-------------------------	-----

## MATCH PLAY

### FIRST ROUND

Wyatt Meyer def. Jim Stone	1-up
Mike Barkley def. Kevin Dyer	6-5
Ron Ferguson def. Max Castro	4-3
Chip Hitt def. Chris Matics	5-4
Jeff Lindquist def. Sam Lewis	1-up
David McDowell def. Eric Schreiber	3-2
John Corzilius def. Rick Cloninger	19 holes
Marc Rosenbaum def. Peter Hartmann	3-2
Steve Riviere def. Pinky Pelham	5-4
George Roat def. John Downs	2-1
David Boesel def. Tim Blau	1-up
David Kartner def. Rob Madigan	2-1
Charlie Polk def. Carter Parry	2-up
Bruce Scamehorn def. Ron LeClair	6-5
Doug LaCrosse def. Bobby Barben	5-4
Mike Freeman def. Rick Kerper	19 holes