

Record shows LaCrosse state's best amateur

By MICK ELLIOTT
Tribune Staff Writer

Doug LaCrosse tries to avoid the question like it's a lateral hazard. No matter, it persists: Has the Tampa liquor-store owner become the state's best amateur golfer?

Just consider the last four weeks. On Sunday, LaCrosse claimed the Florida State Golf Association Mid-Amateur championship, winning five consecutive match-play rounds for the title. The week before he set two tournament records on his way to winning the Invitational de Avila by six strokes. A week earlier he led Florida to a second-place finish in a field of 47 teams in the USGA State Team Championship at Lake Nona in Orlando. And the week before that, he scored five of a maximum six points in team match-play competition as Florida won the Southeast Challenge at Sea Island, Ga.

Still, he stays quiet when asked for a self-appraisal.

"I just can't answer that," LaCrosse, 41, said. "I'd rather hear that from my peers."

In that case, listen to Florida State Golf Association official Jim Witherspoon: "The record speaks for itself," he said. "Doug doesn't have to say it. Look at the tournament results. Doug is the man to beat."

"At the start of match play at the state mid-am, the best players in the state were standing around looking at the bracket trying to figure out when they would have to play Doug. I didn't hear that about anybody else. That's how others look at him. Beat him and you beat the best."

And lately, nobody is beating him.

In the the State Mid-Amateur at Sarasota's Laurel Oaks CC, LaCrosse rolled through five consecutive opponents in match-play — including reigning state match-play champ Bruce Scamehorn of Winter Haven — to claim the victory. In the middle of one early match, Rick Cloninger of Orlando looked at LaCrosse, shook his head and moaned: "You're a machine."

Add to this recent success the accomplishments of qualifying for the U.S. Amateur and the U.S. Mid-Amateur during the summer, and it

GOLF

Attempting to explain the success, the Avila member touches all the bases when handing out praise, but he particularly points to Chris Gaughan, the Avila teaching director who has built quite a stable of top area players.

"Chris just knows so much about my swing and what I'm trying to do," LaCrosse said. "And we've just got a great practice facility at Avila where you can work. And there's some great competition there that keeps you working."

And working.

"I guess it's the quest for perfection," LaCrosse said. "You get to a level and you want to keep working your way up that stepladder."

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Clearwater insurance executive Jack Veghte did it again — and it's getting old. For the fourth time in six years, Veghte, 60, finished second in the Society of Seniors Championship, one of the nation's top senior amateur events played annually in Buford, S.C.

"I missed four putts the last day from under 10 feet or I could have won," he said. "I'm getting tired of second in this event."

What hurts Veghte the most is there is no credit given for second in the national rankings, released each year by Golf Digest.

"You've got to win or they don't rank you as one of the top 10 senior amateurs," he said. "In amateur golf, you only get credit for winning."



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MEMO

DATE: NOVEMBER 12, 1995

TO: SPORTS DEPARTMENT/GOLF RESULTS

FROM: JIM WITHERSPOON/TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: STATE MID-AM CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL RESULTS

Final match results for 1995 State Mid-Amateur Championship:

Doug LaCrosse (Tampa) def. Bruce Scamehorn (Winter Haven) 2-1

Played in 15-20 mph winds and 48 degree temperature, both players were under par for the 17 holes. LaCrosse was 3-under and Scamehorn 1-under.

LOWER HALF

QUALIF SCORE		QUALIF ORDER			
72	FERGUSON, RON ORLANDO	2	FERGUSON		
76	O'NEIL, GORDON MIAMI BEACH	31	6-5	FERGUSON	
74	SAMPSON, TUCKER VALRICO	15	HURD	4-2	
75	HURD, CHIP CORAL SPRINGS	18	1 UP		LACROSSE
73	CLONINGER, RICK ORLANDO	7	CLONINGER		1 UP
76	GLEASON, JACK PALM HARBOR	26	4-2	LACROSSE	
74	SNOAP, DOUG APOPKA	10	LACROSSE	1 UP	
75	LACROSSE, DOUG TAMPA	23	3-2		LACROSSE
72	EARSLEY, STEVE WELLINGTON	3	BOESEL		2-1
76	BOESEL, DAVID WINTER PARK	30	3-2	BOESEL	
74	MALLARD, PATRICK WEST PALM BEACH	14	WOMBLE	4-3	
75	WOMBLE, MIKE NAPLES	19	2-1		BOESEL
73	MITCHELL, CAREY BRADENTON	6	RAINONE		3-2
76	RAINONE, GREG LONGWOOD	27	1 UP	RAINONE	
74	FREEMAN, MIKE LONGWOOD	11	FREEMAN	1 UP	
75	REDDING, MATT PONTE VEDRA BEACH	22	19 HOLES		

UPPER HALF

QUALIF SCORE		QUALIF ORDER				
70	LENTZ, RANDY SARASOTA	1	LENTZ			
76	ROE, TOMMY CLEARWATER	32	4-3			
74	SCAMEHORN, BRUCE WINTER HAVEN	16	SCAMEHORN		SCAMEHORN	
75	SALMON, MARVIN HAINES CITY	17	3-2		5-3	
73	CORZILIUS, JOHN NOKOMIS	8	CORZILIUS			SCAMEHORN
76	LOPUCKI, REECE GAINESVILLE	25	2-1			3-2
73	POLK, CHARLIE LAKE WALES	9	POLK		CORZILIUS	
75	KEISTER, KEITH WINTER PARK	24	3-2		21 HOLES	
72	LEETZOW, MARK SARASOTA	4	LEETZOW			SCAMEHORN
76	MEYER, WYATT TAMPA	29	2 UP			2-1
74	SLAY, KELLY FT. LAUDERDALE	13	MOORE		LEETZOW	
75	MOORE, BILL VALRICO	20	3-2		3-1	
73	WILHITE, WARREN PALATKA	5	WILHITE			LEETZOW
76	PARRY, CARTER SARASOTA	28	1 UP			3-2
74	PATEAS, GEORGE WINTER PARK	12	WOULFE			
75	WOULFE, RICK FT. LAUDERDALE	21	4-2		4-3	

FINAL:

LACROSSE
def
SCAMEHORN
2-1