

# Veghte, Rountree, Poyner Liked In Golf Tourney Opening Today

By FRANK PERICOLA

It will take a score of 281 to 284, depending on weather conditions, to win the Florida state amateur championship golf tournament opening today at Panama Country Club, contestants who played the course predicted yesterday.

The forecast is for fine weather for the event, which runs through Sunday, with 206 golfers from all parts of Florida competing.

Half the field will tee off this morning beginning at 8:38 a.m. and the other half this afternoon starting at 12:06 p.m. New starting times and pairings will be announced after Friday's round, when the golfers will be apportioned into flights.

Jack Veghte of Clearwater, who won the International Four Ball with Truman Connell as a partner, shot sparkling 68 in a practice round yesterday, going out in 32.

J.B. Rountree of Lake City,

another golfer to watch, followed up a 68 Tuesday with a 71 yesterday. Rountree won the George Washington tournament at Tallahassee last February.

Panama City's Jim Poyner shot a 69 yesterday and young Kemp Gholson of Chattahoochee had a 34-36-70. The team of Rountree, Poyner, Gardner Dickinson, Sr., and Jimmy Christo won yesterday's dogfight with 10 under par. Christo, Panama Country Club champion, had a 76. He has had trouble with his driver. Dickinson also had a 76.

Veghte's team was second, nine under par.

Allen Miller, Pensacola golfer now attending University of Georgia, played nine holes yesterday and is shooting well. He was medalist in the recent Georgia-Florida Governor's Cup competition.

Panama City's contingent includes Jim Chancey, John Johnson, A. I. Christo, Fred Bridges,

James Chapman, Ted Buckley, Charley Whitehead, Dayton Logue, Henry Duncan, Bill Fontaine, Jerry Rhinehart, Aubrey Jeffries and Steve Humphreys.

Other Northwest Floridians in the tournament include Frank Powledge of Marianna, Peter Wise, Tom Green and Yed Berghaus of Tallahassee, Sam Friedman of Fort Walton Beach, Ben Duncan of Quincy, and Jack Colter and Bob Wallace of Pensacola.

Woody Wever of St. Petersburg and Kevin Butler of Palm Beach must be considered championship threats. Butler shot a 292 in the Port St. Lucie Invitational. John Chazel of Ocala has also been playing well. Sonny Tinney of Ocala, who won the Walter C. Sherman trophy tournament here 12 years ago while living in Tallahassee, is entered but deprecated his chances, saying he is not hitting the ball well.

Aside from Panama City, Tampa has the largest contingent, with nine. They include Don, Tommy, Jerry and Paul Tarnow. There are six from Ocala, five entrants each from St. Petersburg and Clearwater, four from Miami and Orlando and three each from Pensacola, Tallahassee and Jacksonville.

Bob Kurvin of Lake Worth shot a 78 yesterday in a practice round but is capable of much better golf.

State association directors will be guests at a dinner tonight at the Seven Seas, and all tournament contestants will be guests at a cocktail and party Friday night at the Four Winds.

The championship division, after Friday's play, will comprise the low 32 and ties. After 54 holes of play the championship will be divided into A, B, C and D divisions.

Awards will be made Sunday afternoon by William R. Watts, state association president.

Pro Woody Laffoon asked all caddies desiring employment during the tournament to report at the pro shop this morning.

## Veghte Edges Killian For Amateur Crown

PANAMA CITY, Fla.—Jack Veghte of Clearwater dropped his bridesmaid role in the State Amateur Golf Championships yesterday and won his first title with a 279 finish, one stroke ahead of St. Petersburg schoolboy Mike Killian's 280.

The tournament could just as well have been settled in Pinellas County as third place was taken by Clearwater golfer Bob Rankin, one stroke back of Killian with 281.

Twice before Veghte led the state event as late as the 71st hole only to place, and once he finished fourth.

Most heart-breaking for the Clearwater insurance man was in 1966 at Bay Hill Country Club, Orlando, Veghte lost that one on a lost ball to Bob Murphy, former university of Florida golfer and national amateur champion now turned pro.

Killian is a St. Petersburg Lakewood High School senior who has a golf scholarship to Houston. Last year the Seminole Lake Country Club member finished fifth in the state amateur. In finishing second Killian lost a chance to become the first golfer to hold the state junior crown and the state amateur title both in a 12 months period.

Veghte has won every available amateur tournament in his area and by adding the state amateur title will go down as one of the outstanding players ever to compete in Pinellas County.

Veghte becomes the first Pinellas County golfer to win the title since St. Petersburg City Councilman Horace "Moose" Williams turned the trick back in the late 1930's.

(Please See VEGHTE, 4-C)



PANAMA CITY--Jack Veghte, right, Clearwater insurance man, finally made it to the winner's circle in the Florida State Amateur Championship. Three times a second place finisher Veghte won it all with a fine nine under par 279 for the 72 hole contest at Panama Country Club last week. He receives his victor's award here from Bill Carey, Executive Director of Florida State Golf Association, sponsor of the 51st annual state event the oldest sports competition in Florida.