

Veghte-Ridley duel key to Amateur

Jack Veghte won the 1975 state amateur championship with Fred Ridley finishing second. Three months later Ridley won the U.S. Amateur championship and in so doing beat Veghte in a quarter final match.

Now it's the 1976 Florida Amateur, coming up this week at Grenelefe in Haines City, and while the 184-man field is full of fine competitors, most spectators are looking forward to another showdown finish between Veghte and Ridley.

Ridley, although he's the U.S. champion, has never won his home state's amateur championship. Veghte has won it three times.

Adding to the drama is that Ridley will be playing on his home track. He has been a Grenelefe member for two years, and was given a lifetime membership when he won the national title.

Veghte last year at Lehigh Acres set a state amateur record of 277 for 72 holes, the lowest since the tournament switched to medal play. This is the 59th state amateur and all those prior to 1961 were match play.

Ridley was two strokes behind Veghte last year in the amateur. In their match in the U.S. Amateur Ridley won, 1 up in 19 holes.

Veghte won his first state amateur title

in 1968 at Panama City, repeated two years later at Ormond Beach, then came back last year to win the crown for the third time.

Competition in the 59th state amateur should be razor keen as the best amateurs in the state converge on the rolling, challenging, pine-bordered Grenelefe layout. More than a score of entrants have scratch handicaps, and all have handicaps of six or less, as required by FSGA rules. This hones the field to a polished edge as the ambitious and talented go after this most prestigious and coveted amateur golfing laurel in the state.

Among those who will be reaching for the crown will be such veteran tournament players as Julian Arnold of Miami, Bob Rankin of Clearwater, Jack Shubert of Altamonte Springs (FSGA's top point-winner last year), Gary Schroeder of Winter Park (who teamed with Glen Kirk of Orlando to win the FSGA's 1976 kickoff event, the four-ball tournament in February at Port Malabar, Pipp Patton of Gainesville, and Al Johns of Punta Gorda.

Young, upcoming stars such as Toby Chapin and George DeSear of Bradenton will also be competing, as will Kim Schwencke of Temple Terrace who recently earned a spot in the U.S. Open sectionals by finishing among the top 13 in local qualifying at Gator Creek in Sarasota. Other scratch players include Chip Curley of Tallahassee, Bill Adams of Starke, Buddy Alexander of St. Petersburg, Jim Arnold of Green Cove Springs, Fred Bruneau of St. Petersburg Beach, Chris Crytzer (who tied for third in the FSGA's recent King Neptune tournament at Rolling Hills, Sarasota, Brant C. Martin of Lakeland, Terry May of Altamonte Springs and Tom Losinger of Titusville.

Two talented players who have been prominent in state amateur competition in recent years will be notable by their absence--Gary Koch and Jerry Pate. Both turned professional last year and are now trodding the pro circuit. Koch won the state title in 1972 and Pate won in 1974, the last time the tourney was played at Grenelefe.

The Florida State Amateur is the oldest continuous sports event in Florida, dating back to 1914 when the first championship was played at Rocky Point Golf Club in Tampa. A. C. Ulmer of Jacksonville won that inaugural event, and went on to win it four more times. The only other man to win the title five times was Carl Dann Jr. of Orlando, who put his victory string together in a 16-year period between 1933 and 1949.

Jacksonville and Orlando players have shown a strong dominance of the state amateur over the years, winning almost 50 percent of the tournaments. In the last five years, however, the geographical spread has been sporadic, with Pate bringing to Pensacola that city's first amateur title in 1974. If anything, the center of domination has shifted to the

Ridley-Veghte

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central part of the state, with victories going to Lakeland (Randy Sansing, 1971), Temple Terrace (Koch, 1971), Orlando (Steve Morgan, 1973), and Clearwater (Veghte, 1975).

The only golfer to win the state amateur three times in a row was Don Bisplinghoff of Orlando, who notched his streak in the years 1953-55. He came back three years later to win his fourth title, after Doug Sanders and Frank Strafaci interceded with victories in the two preceding years.

Bill Carey, executive director of the FSGA, is tournament director, and has scheduled starting times early to avoid possible trouble with afternoon rains.

Play will start each day at 7:30 a.m. on both the first and tenth tees with the last groups due off at 12:49, allowing them approximately seven hours before dark to get in their round.

Included in the week is a Thursday night cocktail party and a Saturday night dinner for contestants and guests.

Florida GO

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Glen Kirk outlasts Veghte for State Amateur crown

By CHARLEY STINE
HAINES CITY

It was a shame the way it ended. The 59th Florida Amateur golf championship was a beautiful golf tournament. It had a stellar field, was played on a first class Grenefe golf course that won praise of all participants, and crowned a worthy champion in Glen Kirk after he and Jack Veghte staged a spectacular last day battle.

Orlandoan Kirk had taken the lead with a brilliant third-round 68. But Veghte, a Clearwater insurance man, three-time state champion and a fierce competitor, closed with a charge that made up seven strokes on the last eleven holes and left him just one stroke short of Kirk as they exhaustedly finished the tournament.

Kirk did not collapse on the final holes as Veghte came at him. Conversely he played courageously and made the shots that were necessary. He is a true and worthy champion and most happy champion, and Veghte a true and worthy runnerup. Veghte was a happy man accepting the second place glassware set, happy just from having been in a good fight and having made a charge even though losing.

Thus it was anticlimatic--and tragic--when a half hour after the awards ceremony Veghte was disqualified for having signed an incorrect scorecard. He was notified by telephone, confirmed the figures and like the gentleman he is, brought the prize back to the scorer's table.

Ironically the beneficiary, the player moved up from third place to an official

second, was David Abell of Ft. Pierce. It was Abell who kept Veghte's scorecard and who wrote down the incorrect number which Veghte later signed approval to.

At issue was the first nine holes of Veghte's final round. The scoreboard numbers added to 36 but the total was recorded at 37. Veghte had actually bogied the second hole with a five but Abell had recorded a four, although giving the correct total of 37.

Veghte, at the end of the round, had checked the first nine total of 37 but had neglected to add the figures.

The error was discovered by a spectator looking at the scoreboard after most of the players had dispersed.

"Veghte's first nine doesn't add up," he said. Scorecards were checked and found to be the same as the board FSGA executive director Bill Carey, who was tournament director, was summoned and shown the problem.

The situation was this: A player is responsible for hole by hole. He is not responsible for the addition. If the hole by hole on Veghte's card was correct, then the addition was wrong and Veghte had actually shot 290 and tied Kirk. A playoff would have been in order! If the total was correct but the hole by hole wrong, then Carey had to disqualify Veghte for signing an incorrect card.

Carey went to a phone and called Veghte's apartment in the Grenefe condominiums. He told Jack of the problem. Veghte remembered each hole and quickly said the total was right, the second hole should have been a five. Veghte, being the seasoned tournament player that he is, knew the automatic penalty and didn't protest.

"I'm just happy it didn't have anything to do with first place," Veghte said, as he returned the crystal set he had been awarded. "I've played enough to know

better."

Mrs. Edna Carey, who has checked in a lot of Veghte's scorecards over the years, said Veghte usually makes a little mark above each hole as he checks the card. This card contained no such marks. The thrill of the finish had excited Veghte so much he had slipped up.

Even though Veghte has won the state amateur three times, been runnerup four times and third three times he said Sunday was the most strokes he remembered ever making up in a charge.

The tournament started routinely enough with defending champion Veghte taking the lead on Thursday with a two-under-par 70. U. S. Amateur champion Fred Ridley, a co-favorite with Veghte, shot 75, while 53-year-old Earl Brown of Boynton Beach was a surprising second with 71. Kirk and Buddy Alexander of St. Pete, called dark horses by Golfweek, shot 74 and 78.

The Thursday afternoon round was finished in a heavy rain and Carey declared that Saturday and Sunday he would start the championship flight off in the morning so that they would not get involved in late afternoon rains.

His scheduling worked. There was never another drop of rain at any time during the week.

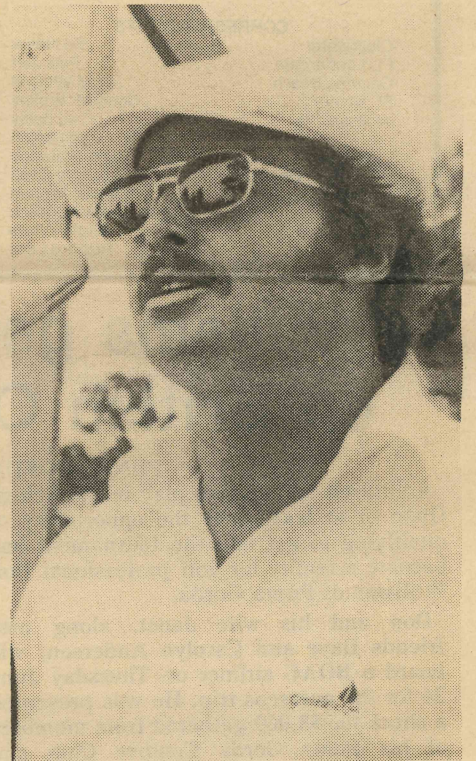
Friday 16-year-old David Abell of Ft. Pierce took the lead with 143 when he tacked a 70 onto an opening day 73. Veghte shot 74 to be a stroke behind, and Buddy Rountree of Ft. Lauderdale was another shot behind after a 75-70. Ridley shot a 71 for a 146 total and Kirk posted another 74 to be five shots off the pace. Alexander shot another 78 and withdrew.

Saturday was moving day and Kirk jumped to the front as he fired a four-under-par 68 for a 216 total. Abell hung on with a 74 and was one shot behind at 217. Kevin Butler of West Palm Beach moved into third place with 219 and

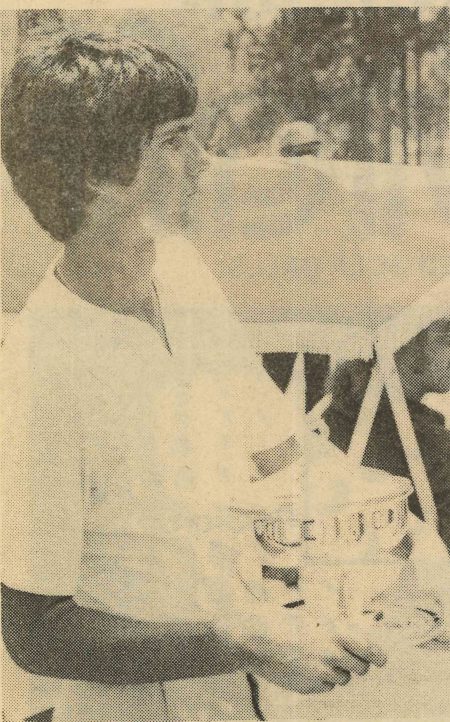
Veghte, with a 76, fell four shots off the pace at 220. Ridley, with a 76, dropped back to 222.

Kirk had achieved his pre-tournament goal of making the final foursome for Sunday, and of playing with Jack Veghte,

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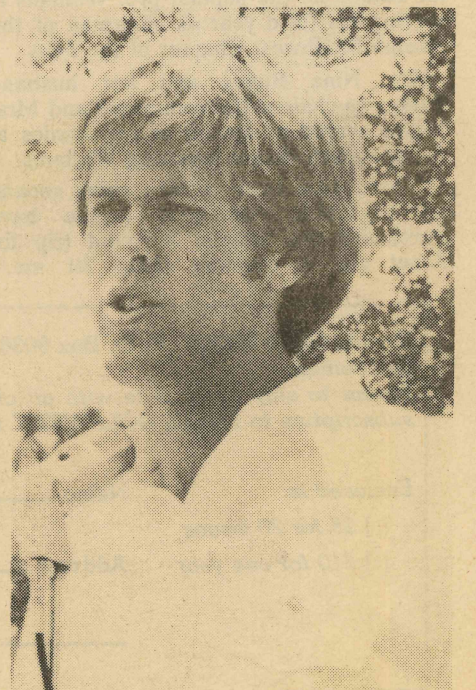
Glenn Kirk
"The biggest day of my life"



David Abell
(with third place trophy)



Veghte's miracle chip shot onto the 14th green



Fred Ridley: "I can appreciate how well Glenn played"

Kirk wins State Am

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something he had never done.

He started where he had left off Saturday with birdie-par-birdie. Veghte started par-bogey-bogey and suddenly Veghte was eight shots behind. He cut the margin to seven, fell back to eight and then started his dramatic closing charge with a birdie on the par-five eighth hole. He made up seven shots on the last eleven holes without Kirk ever having anything worse than a bogey.

Veghte drove into trouble consistently but recovered brilliantly and drained putts from all over the green. He took only twelve putts on the final nine holes.

Perhaps Veghte's best hole was the long par four 14th. He tried to cut a corner of the dogleg too tightly and left himself behind trees for his second shot.

He took out a three-iron and said "if this doesn't hook, it'll be in the clubhouse." It hooked but not quite enough and ended pin high under a tree and behind a bunker with a high bank.

What Veghte needed was to hit with a restricted backswing, keep it low, hit it hard and stop it quick. Crouched under a tree, he accomplished them all and then sank a 15-foot putt to save par.

Kirk, meanwhile had bunkered his second shot, pitched out and two-putted for a bogey.

On the 15th hole Veghte drove behind a tree in the rough, but hit a screamer out which stopped four feet from the pin for another birdie and another gained stroke.

On 16, Kirk and Veghte both got a par three, with Veghte sinking another 15-footer after missing the green with his drive. On 17 Veghte holed out for a birdie from about twenty feet and off the green, while Kirk, who had hit the best second shot, took a par four, bringing the margin down to two strokes with one hole to play.

On the final hole, a par five, Kirk hit the green in regulation three shots while Veghte was off the green but closer to the pin. Veghte got down in two and Kirk, knowing he had a two shot lead, putted cautiously and took three putts for the victory.

It was unfortunate that Veghte's charge, coupled with his subsequent misfortune, took some of the attention away from Kirk's victory.

Kirk didn't squeak in; he won clearly and did not crack at any time while Veghte was charging. His only three-putt green was on the final hole, and came after he checked with an official to be sure how much of a lead he had. Several times on the last nine Kirk made pressure putts of three and four feet.

Kirk is 38 years old, five-foot-eight, a native Texan who takes his tournament golf very seriously. But it is only since coming to Florida four-and-a-half years ago that he has gotten that serious.

He called the Amateur victory "the biggest day of my life without a doubt." He said his biggest day in golf previously was winning two matches in the British Amateur last year. He's going back to Britain in two weeks to try to qualify for the British Open. He'll use the bag he won last week which says "Florida Amateur Champion, 1976".

Kirk is manager of the Graves Harley Davidson golf cart sales and rental agency in Kissimmee. He was a salesman for the Ben Hogan company in Maryland when he came to Florida for his present job.

While this was Kirk's first "major" title he has won three invitationals within the past nine months--the Platinum Coast at Cocoa, the Ben Hill Griffin at Lake Wales in March, and the Brooksville Tangerine Invitational just two weeks ago.

Ridley finished an official third after Veghte's disqualification. His 297 total was tied with Bill Adams of Starke, who was the second flight winner. Adams started with 81-74 to be dropped to the second flight, but fired a 68 Saturday,, same as Kirk, and a 74 on Sunday.

CHAMPIONSHIP FLIGHT

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Glen Kirk, Orlando | 74-74-68-74-290 |
| Jack Veghte, Clearwater | 70-74-76-71-291 |
| David Abell, Ft. Pierce | 73-70-74-79-296 |
| Fred Ridley, Winter Haven | 75-71-76-75-297 |
| Kevin Butler, W. Palm Beach | 75-72-72-79-298 |
| Buddy Rountree, Ft. Lauderdale | 75-70-76-78-299 |
| Jack Shubert, Altamonte Springs | 78-70-75-78-301 |
| Jim Arnold, Green Cove Springs | 77-72-73-79-301 |
| Kenny Knox, Tallahassee | 75-74-74-79-302 |
| Bob Cornett, Tampa | 75-74-75-79-302 |
| Mike Schroeder, Lakeland | 77-71-80-75-303 |
| Walter Cerrato, Titusville | 75-73-81-75-303 |
| Jet Thomas, Winter Haven | 72-74-79-78-303 |
| Toby Chapin, Bradenton | 76-75-77-76-304 |
| Doug Brehme, St. Petersburg | 76-75-75-79-305 |
| Dallas Apelgren, N. Palm Beach | 77-71-73-84-305 |
| William Lloyd, Orlando | 72-77-78-79-306 |
| Earl Brown, Boynton Beach | 71-74-84-80-309 |
| Al Johns, Punta Gorda | 79-72-73-86-310 |
| Dick Caverly, Tampa | 75-73-82-80-310 |
| Paul Tarnow, Tampa | 79-70-81-81-311 |
| Art Burdick, Vero Beach | 76-75-79-81-311 |
| Mickey Van Gerbig, Palm Beach | 76-75-79-81-311 |
| Larry Rinker, Stuart | 74-72-85-81-312 |

FIRST FLIGHT

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|---|
| 301--Eric Slovenkay, Winter Park; Kipp Minter, Orlando |
| 305--Bob Rankin, Clearwater |
| 307--George DeSear, Bradenton; Ken Walsh, Miami; Chris Crytzer, Tampa |
| 308--Michael Arbogast, Melbourne |
| 309--Tom Ginther, Haines City; Ron Tumlin, Palatka |
| 310--Ted Huff, Winter Haven; Berger Warner, Ocala; Steve Owen, Winter Haven; Richard Cromwell, Stuart |
| 311--Austin Jones, Orlando |
| 312--Ned Hogan, Vero Beach |
| 313--A. J. Duncan, Dunedin |

SECOND FLIGHT

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|--|
| 297--Bill Adams, Starke |
| 302--Bob Michael, Sarasota |
| 308--Jack Keena, Miami; Chip Neptune, Sebring; Bruce Scamehorn, Winter Haven |
| 309--Dick McNeil, Miami; Kevin Walsh, Seminole |
| 310--Keith Storms, Indialantic |
| 311--Joe Hodge, Tampa |
| 313--Steve Riggs, Winter Park; Ben Clements, Leesburg |
| 319--Lew Carter, Largo; Gerry Grisson, Casselberry |
| 321--Lance Ball, Winter Haven |

THIRD FLIGHT

| |
|--|
| 306--Rick Pearson, Bradenton |
| 308--Ben Duncan, Quincy |
| 310--David Lester, Winter Haven; Dexter Daniels, Jr., Winter Haven |
| 311--John Pratt, Winter Park |
| 313--Dale McDonald, Ocala |
| 314--Brad Dean, Rockledge |
| 315--Paul Long, Winter Park |
| 316--Rich Westby, Tampa |
| 317--Pipp Patton, Gainesville |
| 318--Kevin Heinicka, Seminole |
| 319--Chris Freeman, Winter Haven |
| 320--Charles Arnold, Orlando |
| 321--Bob Beeler, Sarasota |
| 325--George Acorn, Miami |

FOURTH FLIGHT

| |
|--|
| 311--Earl Gibson, Sarasota; Barry Franzese, Ft. Myers |
| 314--Terry Layne, Titusville |
| 316--Rick Valdes, Tampa |
| 317--Craig Scott, Orlando; Allen Meene, Lantana |
| 320--Ron Ferguson, Apopka |
| 323--Billy Waters, Winter Haven; George Bumgarner, Orlando; Danny Elkins, St. Petersburg; David Knowles, Bradenton |
| 324--Skip LuJack, Valrico; Dennis Peterson, Apopka; Thomas Grady, Winter Park |

FIFTH FLIGHT

| |
|--|
| 315--Charles Parks, Winter Haven |
| 316--Lee Rinker, Stuart |
| 317--Tom Losinger, Titusville |
| 320--Van Silver, Miami |
| 322--Billy Loggins, Orlando |
| 323--Jeff Tanner, Sarasota |
| 326--Bill McAnly, Naples; Bill Earley, Bradenton |
| 327--Jeff Johnston, Bradenton |
| 328--M. T. McInnis, Bradenton |
| 329--Lee Bennett, Sarasota |
| 343--Jim Champion, Orlando |

SIXTH FLIGHT

| |
|---|
| 323--Mike Garrett, St. Petersburg; Dale Schwatsch, Coral Springs; Norman Dudley, Temple Terrace |
| 325--Jim King, Belleair |
| 327--Billy Napier, Orlando |
| 328--Henry Scott, Melbourne; Brad Fisher, Lakeland |
| 331--Jim Ramsbottom, Plantation |
| 332--Harold Barber, Clearwater |
| 336--Paul Tarnow, Tampa; Dan English, Holmes Beach |
| 337--T. L. Price, Melbourne |

SEVENTH FLIGHT

| |
|---|
| 320--Kim Schwencke, Temple Terrace |
| 322--Ben Brown, Tallahassee |
| 323--Chuck Ludwig, Winter Park |
| 326--Tim Schroyer, Sarasota |
| 327--Jim Williams, Ocala |
| 328--Mike Corcoran, Indialantic |
| 329--Dexter Daniels, Sr., Winter Haven; Allan MacIntyre, Bradenton; Mike Yahl, Naples |
| 332--Rex Reese, Lakeland |
| 334--Bob Hall, Palm Bay |
| 342--Mark Hampton, Clearwater |

EIGHTH FLIGHT

| |
|---|
| 323--Dick Alred, W. Palm Beach |
| 324--Dave Davis, Brandon |
| 325--Jim Brehme, St. Petersburg |
| 326--Larry Mikeal, St. Cloud |
| 329--Sam Vaughn |
| 332--Richard Hope, St. Petersburg; Desi Robbins, Winter Haven |
| 333--Sandy Reese, St. Petersburg; Ray Clary, Winter Haven |
| 334--Phil Galvano, Bradenton |
| 335--John Chazel, Ocala; Julian Series, Temple Terrace |
| 340--Bo Cook, Tampa |
| 342--Mike Healy, Sarasota; Lenny Dee, Jr., St. Petersburg Beach |

NINTH FLIGHT

| |
|-----------------------------------|
| 329--Andy Gibson, Sarasota |
| 334--Dan Smith, Sarasota |
| 335--John Giebeig, Jr., Lake City |
| 336--Dan Simmons, Brandon |
| 339--Jess Dees, St. Petersburg |
| 341--Phil McElhan, Winter Haven |

Kirk Yes, Veghte No

By MYRON HART
Tribune Sports Writer

HAINES CITY—Three-time champion Jack Veghte defended his title unsuccessfully in the 59th annual State Amateur golf championships—but he defended to the fullest the cause of sportsmanship and fair play.

He championed, in the best of tradition, the spirit of competition.

Yet it was a single shot by Orlando's Glen Kirk that unseated the defending champion.

And it was one stroke of a scoring pencil that disqualified Veghte two hours later and cost him the runnerup spot in the tournament.

BRITISH amateur hopeful Glen Kirk posted a final round of 74 here yesterday to win, outright, the state's most prestigious amateur event. He claimed the victory with a 74-74-68-74—290, two strokes over par for the tournament.

Veghte had started the tournament with a two-under-par 70, despite rain on the opening day. He added a 74, Friday, and a 76, Saturday, to go into the final round with a 220, in fourth place, four strokes off the pace Kirk had set with his blistering four-under-par third round.

David Abell, the 16-year-old second round leader from Fort Pierce, went into the final 18 holes one stroke behind Kirk. But after double bogey-sixes on 2 and 6 — and a two-stroke penalty on a 5 for a double bogey-seven — he finished the round with a 79.

For two hours, after posting earlier rounds of 73, 70, and 74, Abell was thought to be in third place at 296 — five strokes behind Veghte.

FOR TWO hours, U.S. Amateur champion Fred Ridley

Please See Page 7, Col. 4

Veghte Disqualified As Kirk Wins

• From Page 1

was thought to be in fourth place after a 75-71-76-75—297 performance.

Veghte argued Abell had not intentionally tried to improve the lie of his ball on No. 5 where the penalty was assessed. The youngster had taken two practice swings and broken an already damaged branch of a tree overhead before taking his shot.

Florida State Golf Association executive Bill Carey, however, levied the penalty in spite of Veghte's words. "If you had gone through with the swing, made the shot and broken the branch, no penalty," he told Abell. But the rules he read added two strokes to the youth's score for "moving, bending or breaking anything fixed or growing."

Both Veghte and Carey lauded the young teen's maturity and sportsmanship for accepting the ruling "the same way he accepts a good shot." Veghte then accepted the runnerup's silver tray amid much commotion.

THE CLEARWATER golfer had given Kirk all the challenge he wanted. By the third hole of the finale, Veghte was eight strokes behind Kirk.

"I was playing as hard as I could play," Kirk told FSGA president Dexter Daniels Jr., then added, "I was a little bit worried to say the least. I can't putt." Later, he added, "I felt in trouble when Veghte's putter got hot."

With a full head for the competition, Veghte picked up seven strokes on the last 11 holes. He picked up five strokes on the last six holes — all, one at a time.

"It was probably the most exciting chase I've ever made," said Veghte. "And the guy ahead wasn't just dropping dead."

Some time later, after the awards were presented, a golfer in a flight other than the championship noticed a discrepancy on the scoreboard.

THE TOTALS added up: it read "37-34—71." They were listed right.

But where Veghte had taken a bogie-five on No. 2, the scorecard read "4". The hole-by-hole scores added to 36.

Either Veghte had really ended with a tie with Kirk and a playoff was in order—or Veghte was to be disqualified for the pencil error.

"I just got a little busy at the end," Veghte said after being notified of the error. "I didn't check the scorecard over carefully enough."

Scorecard Mistake Costs Veghte 2nd; Ridley Takes 3rd

Kirk Prevails In State Amateur Golf

By DICK SCANLON
News-Chief Sports Editor

HAINES CITY — Glenn Kirk, a 37-year-old golf cart dealer from Orlando, survived a late charge by defending champion Jack Veghte to become the winner of the 59th annual Florida State Amateur Golf Tournament Sunday at Grenelefe.

Kirk, whose 68 round of Saturday had vaulted him into the lead, will go into the record books as a six stroke winner because of a later discovery that Veghte had made a mistake on his scorecard and thus forfeited second place. But that technicality could not erase the drama of a fine comeback which brought the ex-champ to within a stroke of catching Kirk after starting the

final nine holes six strokes behind.

Calling his victory "the biggest thing of my life," Kirk pointed to his par on the 16th hole Sunday as the biggest single hole of the tournament. Leading Veghte by three strokes with three holes to go, he overshot the green by about three feet, then putted just past the hole and came back for a short par. Veghte's clutch 15-foot putt from off the green on 17 kept the pressure on, but Kirk outdrove his challenger on 18 and then protected his two-stroke lead.

David Abell of Ft. Pierce, who played in Veghte's

foursome and kept his scorecard, suffered some bad luck of his own when a two-stroke penalty on the front nine helped pad his Sunday score to 79, still finished second with a 72-hole total of 296. Winter Haven's Fred Ridley took third at 297 while Kevin Butler of West Palm Beach shot a 298 for fourth place. Tying for fifth were the only other players to break 300, Buddy Rountree of Fort Lauderdale and Julian Arnold of Miami.

The 7,300 yard course (next weekend's U.S. Open will be played on a 7,000 yard course) proved to be a bit too rugged for anyone to par. The best scores were turned in on Friday before course officials moved the pins back, but Kirk surged ahead when his four-under-par 68 gained four or more strokes on all of the other leaders. Abell, the 16-year-old high school senior, trailed by just a stroke after 54 holes, but shot a 42 on the final front nine to drop out of the running. He scored two straight double bogeys — one because of another technicality. His backswing on a practice swing broke a branch just off the fifth fairway.

Veghte's ill-fated efforts to gain a fourth Florida Am title were seriously damaged Saturday with a 76, but he had no trouble remembering the most costly stroke before learning of his forfeiture.

"There's no question about it," he said. "Back in the seventh hole of the second day I reached over to tap in a four-inch putt, but my putter slipped and hit the ball twice. So I had to take two strokes.

"But it was an enjoyable tournament. It makes it interesting when you're in the thing all the way. If you're in a different flight or even when you're not playing with the leaders, it's not as exciting."

Daily News-Chief

SPORTS

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NEWS-CHIEF, Monday, June 14, 1976

Ridley, the defending US Amateur champion, shot a 76 Saturday to fall six behind Kirk, and could not pick up any ground on Sunday's front nine while shooting a 35.

"I wanted to win this tournament real badly this year, especially since it's on my own course and after coming so close last year," he said. "But I don't feel so bad knowing that I lost to three guys who were out there playing as well as these guys were."

As it turned out, of course, Ridley only finished behind two players. Nearly an hour after the awards ceremony, an observer who would not identify himself stood scanning the board and noticed that Veghte's front nine scores totaled 36, even though they were totaled as 37. As it turned out, Veghte had scored a par 5 on the second hole, but Abell had written a 4 on his card. Since it is the responsibility of the player himself to check and add the scores before signing the card, Veghte became the victim of the error.

STATE AMATEUR SCORES

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Glenn Kirk, Orlando | 74 - 74 - 68 - 74 - 290 |
| *Jack Veghte, Clearwater | 70 - 74 - 76 - 71 - 291 |
| David Abell, Ft. Pierce | 73 - 70 - 74 - 79 - 296 |
| Fred Ridley, Winter Haven | 75 - 71 - 76 - 75 - 297 |
| Kevin Butler, West Palm Beach | 75 - 72 - 72 - 79 - 298 |
| Buddy Rountree, Ft. Lauderdale | 75 - 70 - 76 - 78 - 299 |
| Julian Arnold, Miami | 77 - 73 - 75 - 74 - 299 |
| Eric Slovenkay, Winter Park | 75 - 77 - 74 - 75 - 301 |
| Kipp Minter, Tampa | 77 - 75 - 74 - 75 - 301 |
| Bob Michael, Sarasota | 75 - 80 - 71 - 76 - 302 |
| Jet Thomas, Winter Haven | 72 - 74 - 79 - 78 - 303 |
| Walter Cerrato, Titusville | 75 - 73 - 81 - 74 - 303 |
| Bob Cornett, Tampa | 75 - 74 - 75 - 79 - 303 |
| Mike Schroeder, Lakeland | 77 - 71 - 80 - 75 - 303 |
| Toby Chapin, Bradenton | 76 - 75 - 77 - 76 - 304 |
| Bob Rankin, Clearwater | 76 - 76 - 77 - 76 - 305 |
| Doug Brehme, St. Petersburg | 76 - 75 - 75 - 79 - 305 |
| Dallas Apellgren, West Palm Beach | 77 - 71 - 73 - 84 - 305 |
| William Lloyd, Orlando | 72 - 77 - 78 - 79 - 306 |
| Chris Crytzer, Tampa | 77 - 75 - 79 - 76 - 307 |
| George De Sear, Bradenton | 76 - 76 - 76 - 79 - 307 |
| Kenneth Walsh, Miami | 78 - 74 - 78 - 77 - 307 |

Other top local scores:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Bruce Scamehorn, Winter Haven | 77 - 78 - 73 - 80 - 308 |
| Tom Ginther, Haines City | 78 - 74 - 79 - 78 - 309 |
| Steve Owen, Winter Haven | 75 - 78 - 78 - 79 - 310 |
| Dexter Daniels, Jr., Winter Haven | 76 - 79 - 77 - 78 - 310 |
| Ted Huff, Winter Haven | 77 - 75 - 80 - 78 - 310 |
| * forfeited | |



Kirk breathes sigh of relief at moment of victory.