

Sarasota's Leetzow takes Amateur title; Owen sixth

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JUPITER — Mark Leetzow, of Sarasota, had the lead for three days, lost the lead, then came from behind Sunday to regain it and win the Florida State Amateur Championship for the second time in three years.

Daniel Owen of Ocala shot a final-round 74 to finish with a 290, nine strokes off the pace and tied for sixth.

Trailing Pleasant Hughes, of West Palm Beach, by a stroke after 13 holes, Leetzow birdied the 14th, 15th and 17th holes to finish at 69-281, 7 under par on the 6,904-yard Fazio course at Old Trail Golf Club.

Hughes, 24, bogied the last two holes but held second with 72-295. Opening with three straight 71s, he had trailed Leetzow, 29, by one after three rounds, pulled even on the front nine Sunday and got the

lead when Leetzow bogied No. 10.

Gary Keymont, of Orlando, and Paul Natale Jr., of Clearwater, tied for third by matching final round totals of 73 for 287. No one else was at or below par in the 79th annual State Amateur.

"This one probably means a little more," said Leetzow, a left-hander who captured the title in 1995 on the seventh playoff hole at Sara Bay Country Club, his home course. "It

was great to win in front of a home crowd. But I probably should have won there. This sort of validates that victory."

Chris Couch, of North Lauderdale, is the last player to win twice in 1993-94. The record is five victories, all at match play, by Al Ulmer, of Jacksonville, in 1917, 1921-22 and 1928, and O. Dann Jr., of Orlando, in 1933-1937-38 and 1949. The format changed to stroke play in 1961.

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TOM SPOUSTA

Comment



Splashing in 'small pond'

His name had yet to be engraved on the State Amateur trophy but Mark Leetzow already was being asked The Question:

So, Mark ... going pro?

"Been there, done that," Leetzow said, laughing. "Been there, starved there."

Leetzow again proved himself Florida's best amateur player last weekend, winning by four shots at Old Trail Golf Club in Jupiter. It was his second State Amateur victory in three years. He also won in 1995 at Sara Bay Country Club.

Such success must mean he's ready to tackle the PGA Tour, right?

"It's a very poor assumption," Leetzow said. "People really don't know how many great players there are, not only in Florida, but the country. And everyone's vying for a very small pie."

Leetzow knows. Not long ago he tried to carve a piece for himself.

After winning the 1991 Sarasota City Amateur, Leetzow turned pro. He tried the PGA Tour's qualifying school that fall, but didn't advance past the first round. He played the old Jordan Tour (now the Hooters Tour) and kicked around other mini-tour events for about 18 months.

Leetzow cooks in stretch

Sarasota left-hander birdies three of final five holes to come from behind and capture his his second State Amateur crown in three years.

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Hughes, 24, bogeyed the last two holes but held second with 72-285. Opening with three straight 71s, he had trailed Leetzow, 29, by one after three rounds, pulled even on the front nine Sunday and got the lead when Leetzow bogeyed No. 10.

Gary Keymont of Orlando and Paul Natale Jr. of Clearwater tied for third by matching final-round totals of 73 for 287. No one else was at or below par in the 79th annual State Amateur.

The left-handed Leetzow found himself a shot down Sunday after he bogeyed the 10th hole but pulled even with Hughes with a 20-foot birdie putt on the 195-yard par-3 14th. On the par-5 15th, Leetzow's third shot hit the green about 20 feet beyond the cup, then spun back to within two feet. That easy birdie gave him the lead for good.

After Leetzow and Hughes parred No. 16, Leetzow stretched his lead to three shots on the 17th hole when he birdied and Hughes bogeyed.



Mark Leetzow also won the State Amateur in 1995.

Leetzow closed with a 15-foot par putt on 18 as Hughes three-putted for his second consecutive bogey.

Leetzow captured the title in 1995 on the seventh playoff hole at Sara Bay Country Club, his home course. In that tournament, Leetzow had a two-shot lead with just two holes to play, but Mike Bodney forced the playoff with birdies on the final two holes.

"This one probably means a little more," said Leetzow. "It was great to win in front of a home crowd. But I probably should have won there. This sort of validates that victory."

Three other area golfers finished among the Top 20. John Corzilius, of Nokomis, closed with his second straight 73 for 291, tied for 11th place. Matt Raitz (73-292), of Palmetto, was tied for 14th place, and Mark Boldin (67-293), of Sarasota, finished in a tie for 16th position.

**LEETZOW PULLS AWAY WITH A 69;
CHAMPION OF THE FLORIDA STATE AMATEUR GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP**

JUNE 22, 1997

JUPITER, Fla. - Sarasota's Mark Leetzow shot a 33 on the back nine of the 79th annual Florida State Amateur Championship at Jonathan's Landing at Old Trail to pull away from West Palm Beach's Pleasant Hughes and claim his second title in three years. Hughes ended four strokes back with a final round 72.

Leetzow, the 1995 Florida State Amateur champion, bogeyed number 10 to fall one stroke behind Hughes. Leetzow followed Hughes' birdie on 11 with one of his own. After both players made consecutive pars, Leetzow made his charge. On the 195-yard par three-14th, Leetzow sank a 20-foot birdie putt to pull even. Then on the par five-15th, Leetzow hit his third shot 20 feet beyond the hole before it spun back to within two feet. With the birdie putt, he moved one-up. After both parred the 16th, Leetzow struck again with another birdie at 17. Hughes missed his par putt to fall three down with a hole to play. With little drama, Leetzow ended his championship run with a 15-foot par putt to claim the championship. Hughes three-putted on the final hole for a bogey that put him four back.

Clearwater's Paul Natale, Jr. and Orlando's Gary Keymont finished six strokes back tied for third. Nathan Bertsch of Gulf Breeze was fifth.

Thunderstorms postponed the championship for two hours in the early morning. The course was in perfect playing condition throughout the tournament, and there was no exception following the delay.

**LEETZOW HOLDS A ONE
STROKE LEAD AT THE FLORIDA STATE AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP**

JUNE 21, 1997

JUPITER, Fla. - Sarasota's Mark Leetzow shot a 74 in the third round of the Florida State Amateur Championship at Jonathan's Landing at Old Trail Saturday, Pleasant Hughes of West Palm Beach shot his third consecutive 71 to trail by one.

Leetzow scrambled for a front-nine over. He bogeyed number 11 and 14 before a birdie at the 15th to finish at two-over on the day.

Hughes was four strokes back before today's one-under round. After one-over on the front nine, he had birdies on number 11 and 15 to finish with a 71.

Orlando's Gary Keymont and Clearwater's Paul Natale, Jr, are two strokes back at 214. Keymont shot a 71 after his earlier rounds of 70 and 73. Natale had a 70 today after two rounds of par 72.

The final round begins Sunday at 8:00 a.m. with the final group starting at 9:40 a.m. The Clarence Camp Championship Trophy presentation will conclude the day.

**LEETZOW CONTINUES HOT STREAK;
LEADS FLORIDA STATE AMATEUR BY THREE STROKES**

JUNE 20, 1997

JUPITER, Fla. - Sarasota's Mark Leetzow shot 70 in the second round of the Florida State Amateur Championship at Jonathan's Landing at Old Trail. He shot a first round 68 to have a 138 total after two days.

Leetzow had an up-and-down round in which he did not make a par during an eight-hole stretch. After bogeying number eight, nine and ten, he birdied 11 through 13. With a bogey on 14, a birdie on 15, and three pars to finish the round, Leetzow ended his "routine" 36 back nine,

Gulf Breeze's Nathan Bertsch shot a 69 to move into second place. After his first round 72, Bertsch had five birdies and one bogey. Pleasant Hughes (West Palm Beach), Ben Taylor (Jacksonville) and Wyatt Meyer (Tampa) are tied for third at 142.

Seventy-one players made the cut. A total of 154 allowed competitors to advance through the weekend.

**LEETZOW LEADS
79TH ANNUAL FLORIDA STATE AMATEUR
GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP**

June 19, 1997

Jupiter, Fla. - Sarasota's Mark Leetzow fired a 68 in the first round of the 79th annual Florida State Amateur Championship to lead 120 of the state's best amateurs at Jonathan's Landing at Old Trail in Jupiter, Florida.

Leetzow, the 1995 State Amateur Champion, had a 33 on the front nine and closed with a 35. Tampa's Wyatt Meyer, Orlando's Gary Keymont, and Jacksonville's Ben Taylor are tied for second at 70 in the first round. The 1992 champion, Doug LaCrosse of Tampa, is three strokes back at 71. The defending champion, Steve Carrington Bradley of Ocala, withdrew prior to the tournament.

Second round begins tomorrow morning at 8:00 am. The leaders start at 10:06 am. The field will be cut to the low 70 scores, plus ties, for the week-end rounds.

FLORIDA STATE AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP
Jonathan's Landing at Old Trail
Jupiter, Florida
June 19 - 22, 1997

Mark Leetzow, Sarasota 68-70-74-69--281
Pleasant Hughes, West Palm Beach 71-71-71-72--285
Paul Natale Jr, Clearwater 72-72-70-73--287
Gary Keymont, Orlando 70-73-71-73--287
Nathan Bertsch, Gulf Breeze 72-69-74-74--289
Jim Kiely, Miami 75-72-76-67--290
Ben Taylor, Jacksonville 70-72-77-71--290
Kevin Mock, Tampa 72-74-71-73--290
Ryan Dillon, Winter Garden 77-70-70-73--290
Daniel Owen, Ocala 73-71-72-74--290
Rick Woulfe, Ft Lauderdale 76-69-72-74--291
John Corzilius, Nokomis 71-74-73-73--291
Doug Lacrosse, Tampa 71-75-71-74--291
Jeff Klauk, Ponte Vedra Beach 71-73-76-72--292
Matt Raitz, Palmetto 77-71-71-73--292
Mark Boldin, Sarasota 73-79-74-67--293
Chad Baker, Orlando 73-74-73-73--293
David Gardner, Maitland 73-74-73-74--294
Matt Borchert, Orlando 77-72-72-74--295
Dan Hunter, Port Orange 75-72-73-75--295
Robert Wiederkehr, Ft Lauderdale 75-70-76-75--296
Ian Peterson, Orlando 74-72-73-78--297
Wyatt Meyer, Tampa 70-72-74-81--297
Brad Schwartz, New Smyrna Beach 75-72-77-74--298
Erik Labitzke, Daytona Beach 74-75-75-74--298
David Boesel, Winter Park 76-75-74-74--299
Frank Strafacci, Miami Beach 74-74-76-75--299
Jason Harger, Lake Mary 72-75-75-78--300
Jamie Hall, Vero Beach 75-75-73-77--300
Bill Griffith, Miami Lakes 77-77-72-74--300
Larry Monteith, Tequesta 77-75-76-72--300
Jason Opal, Longwood 72-74-83-71--300
Eric Schreiber, West Palm Beach 77-76-72-76--301
Lee Booker, Naples 74-74-78-75--301
Victor Lohman, Ormond Beach 75-75-76-76--302
Lee Chira, Orlando 78-76-72-76--302
Adam Hayes, Rockledge 74-74-77-78--303
Vince Cherrix, Pompano Beach 76-77-75-75--303
Todd Blanks, St Petersburg 75-75-78-75--303
Paul Piccolo, Palm City 73-79-77-74--303
Bobby Barben, Avon Park 79-74-77-73--303
Albert Mlynarski, Port Orange 75-75-75-79--304

Robert Jacks, Ft Myers 71-72-82-79--304
William King, Jupiter 73-76-75-80--304
George Earle, Key Biscayne 75-75-78-76--304
John McKinney, Plantation 73-79-75-77--304
John Turk, Indian Harbour Beach 74-77-79-74--304
Daniel Tedrick, Tallahassee 72-77-77-79--305
A.J. Kroeger, Apopka 77-76-72-81--306
David Mobley, Jacksonville 71-82-78-75--306
Jesse Eisenman, West Palm Beach 80-74-76-77--307
Michael Leonard, Winter Park 77-77-78-75--307
Tom Case, Ft Myers 77-76-79-76--308
Danny Germaine, North Palm Beach 79-75-75-81--310
William Wotus, Sanford 79-75-79-78--311
Jim Mansfield, Tequesta 75-77-78-82--312
Lee King, Stuart 82-72-79-79--312
Stuart Laake Jr, Clearwater 77-76-82-78--313
Brad Stanis, Coral Springs 76-78-78-83--315
Jason Carlock, Cape Coral 74-79-77-86--316

Marshall Ames, Clearwater 78-76-82-WD
Jim Byington, Winter Park 77-73-77-WD
Thomas Fitzpatrick, Winter Park 76-72-79-NS
Richard Henken, Gainesville 74-75-83-NS
Carter Parry Jr, Sarasota 74-77-73-WD
John Robinson, Orlando 73-73-78-WD
Joe Williams, Clearwater 77-75-78-WD

-----CUT-----

Jeff Eads, Brandon 77-78--155
Adam Merrill, Gainesville 78-77--155
Kevin Zuelch, Key West 78-77--155
Cary Geensburg, Boca Raton 75-80--155
Gordon O'Neil, Davie 79-76--155
Eric Snyder, Ft Lauderdale 81-74--155
Dan Holland, Tampa 77-79--156
Kevin Dyer, Clearwater 73-83--156
Michael Bloom, Boca Raton 77-80--157
James Beckley, Vero Beach 76-81--157
Brad Speed, Gainesville 75-82--157
Craig Ross, Atlantic Beach 78-79--157
Stephen Albright Jr, Ocala 80-77--157
Kevin Strickler, Longwood 77-81--158
Rob Glisson, Tampa 79-79--158
Moot Thomas, Ocala 79-79--158
Tim O'Neil, Auburndale 80-78--158
Tory Carli, Lake Mary 77-82--159
Jim Bounds, Boynton Beach 78-81--159
Jaime Girardi, Tallahassee 79-80--159

Brian Alan King, Altamonte Springs 79-80--159
Brian Hawke, Temple Terrace 79-80--159
Mark Doherty, Bonita Springs 80-79--159
Ron Moxom, Sarasota 82-77--159
Brett Hitchcock, Tampa 80-80--160
Winston Wheeler, Tampa 75-86--161
Kelly Frink, Hobe Sound 81-80--161
Bubba Bailey, Cross City 82-79--161
Brendan Heslin, West Palm Beach 82-79--161
Atsushi Road, Tampa 83-78--161
Eric Graybeal, Neptune Beach 84-77--161
Thomas Long, Ft Pierce 82-80--162
Jeff Powers, Boca Raton 83-79--162
Tom Tyler Jr, Sarasota 84-78--162
Don Grant, Coral Springs 77-86--163
Glenn Kerres, Melbourne 80-83--163
Kelley Slay, Weston 82-81--163
Geoffrey Bowles, Valrico 80-84--164
Tom Halchak, Clearwater 87-77--164
Jan Havmoeller, Miami 78-87--165
Ryan Stead, Longwood 85-80--165
Brian Ayers, Valrico 80-87--167
Don Dillon, Plantation 81-87--168
Masi Saari, Lantana 87-82--169

Mike Puiford, Wesley Chapel 88-NS
Bruce Tuttle, Boca Raton 85-NS
Rene Rodriguez, Fort Lauderdale 82-NC