

Palma Ceia CC's LaCrosse still loyal to Avila team

Last year, when Avila won for the sixth consecutive time, Palma Ceia finished second. It has been pointed out to LaCrosse by his friends in South Tampa that Palma Ceia would have won by seven shots with his score.

"Yeah, that has really been thrown in my face," said LaCrosse, who recently started a new pressure-cleaning business. But it could get worse for LaCrosse. He's thinking of the verbal abuse he is certain to receive if

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FSQA/LaCrosse sticks with Avila team

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Palma Ceia were to win without him. "And they've got a heck of a team," he said. "Actually, there are a whole bunch of guys who would love to knock us off and are pretty doggone good." Avila will be represented by Wyatt Meyer, Rennie Law, John Fowler, Bob Kouwe and LaCrosse.

Palma Ceia will send Max Castro, Frank Griffin, Forrest Boushall, Dick Goerlich and Rich Brown. Underlining the strength of amateur golf in the Bay area, Bloomingdale and Tampa Palms also promise to be contenders, while Temple Terrace, Feather Sound, Buckhorn Springs, Fox Hollow, Hunter's Green and Wentworth all will send teams.

Bloomingdale will be represented by Mike Walters, Bill Moore, Drew Miller, Rusty Napier and Jim Pepio. Tampa Palms will send Dan Shipp, Roglissom, Jack Hannon, Jimmy Jones and Doug Reintgen.

Qualifying: Qualifying for the Florida Amateur Championship is underway with 23 players from two area tournaments already advancing to the June 19-22 state championship at Jonathan's Landing at Old Trail in Jupiter.

Area players Kevin Mock, Atsushi Kozaki, Joe Williams, Dan Holland, Kevin Dyer and Bill Moore all advanced from a qualifier at Lone Palm. Wyatt Meyer, Winston Wheeler, Brei Hitchcock, Brian Ayers, Tom Halchak, Mike Fulford, Stuart Lake Jr. Jeff Eads and Geoffrey Bowles qualified at River Hills.

Doug LaCrosse had a dilemma. At least all his fellow members at Palma Ceia CC told him he

year won its sixth consecutive State Club Team title, a victory streak that has left FSQA officials shaking their heads.

"The state of Florida possesses many of the finest amateur golfers in the country. It's a great tribute to Avila to have successfully retained the club championship for six years," FSQA executive director Jim Demick said.

That's why LaCrosse said there was no dilemma.

"It just wouldn't be right," LaCrosse said. "I started played for Avila back when Palma Ceia didn't field a team. Now I just can't walk away, especially because I truly believe this streak is something that might never be done again."

Forty-eight teams representing 37 clubs gather today and Sunday at Vero Beach's Windsor and Orchid Island clubs. Each team will be represented by five players, with the lowest four counting for the club's daily score.



Mick Elliott
GOLF

champion. So it seemed only logical he should lead a Palma Ceia team — considered one of the favorites — into this weekend's FSQA State Club Team Championship in Vero Beach.

There was just one problem. LaCrosse also is a member at Avila. And LaCrosse has been playing for the Avila team that last

Long-lost trophy coming to Pinellas

Column by MICK ELLIOTT of the Tampa Tribune 6-14-97

So that's what the Florida Club Team Championship trophy looks like.

That might well be the reaction when the newly-engraved trophy arrives next week at Wentworth Golf Club in Tarpon Springs. After all, it has been a long time since anyone outside the walls of Avila has seen the thing, and even longer since anyone outside Hillsborough Country has held the hardware.

When Wentworth claimed a one-shot victory over Marsh Creek and a seven-shot win over seven years Avila did not claim the title and the first time in 15 years a Hillsborough County club did not win.

Since 1982 Avila, Bloomingdale and Palma Ceia had been the only clubs to win the state tournament that pits five-man teams (counting the low four scores) in a two-day, 36-hole stroke competition.

Wentworth's total of 588 was earned with Walter Himeisbaugh's 36-hole 2-under 142, Mike Barkley's 143, Jerry Huston's 145, David Niles' 154 and Rick Janas' 165.

Doug LaCrosse (142), Rennie Law (145), Bob Kouwe (153), Wyatt Meyer (155) and John Fowler (158) gave Avila a 595 that tied for third with Feather Sound's Gary Schmidtko (146), Gary Blount (148), Sean O'Malia (148), Kevin Dyer (153) and Jake Kevorkian (161).

"We're real proud of those guys," Wentworth director of operations Eddie Pearce said. "They have to be to play this course. It's sink or swim."

"Avila has made it so tough on everybody over the years, a lot of people were gunning for them. Our guys were really fired up."

After six consecutive titles, somebody finally did get Avila.

"We played well the first day, but just didn't play well as a team the second day," LaCrosse said. "There's nothing we can say except congratulations."

"What's amazing is that the trophy had stayed in the county so long. But to keep it right next door in the Tampa Bay area is still pretty remarkable."

The final results prove LaCrosse right.

Along with Wentworth's victory and Avila and Feather Sound sharing third, Bloomingdale

Wentworth supplants Avila as state champ



DAVE THEALL

GOLF

earning \$506,173 last year when he made the cut in 18 of 25 events. **PINELLAS INTERCLUB:** The Vinoy Club completed its return to the Interclub Association by winning the two-event playoff series in the final tournament June 6 at Lansbrook.

Lansbrook won the Jim Ainsworth Trophy as the runner-up.

The Vinoy came into the final match of 12 competing clubs in second place behind Belleview Mido. But the St. Petersburg club won the final match at 20 under to surge into the lead with 66 points for the year. On that basis, it won the Bud Donahue Trophy as well as the Interclub championship.

Even with head pro Frank Reynolds of Belleview shooting par 72 on his own ball, the club total of plus 6 in the final match left it in second place overall in the point standings just ahead of Countryside, Belleair and Lansbrook.

In the pro division, there was a three-way tie for runner-up with scores of 73 among Matt Cote, Wentworth, Chris Karamitsos, Lansbrook, and Jim Slattery, Belleair.

Wentworth Golf Club came from five strokes back after round one of the 53rd annual Florida State Club Team Championship to capture the title by a single stroke over Marsh Creek of St. Augustine and 41 other teams.

The 36-hole tournament was held June 8 and 9 at Vero Beach. Avila Golf and Country Club of Tampa had won the title for six years running and was the logical favorite. Led by Doug LaCross's 142 (68-74), Avila tied for third with Feather Sound this time with a score of 595.

Five players compete for each team, with the top four scores counting each day.

Walter Himselbaugh of Wentworth matched LaCross's 142 with two-day scores of 69-73 to lead the Tarpon Springs club to the win.

Mike Barkley was a stroke back (73-70) followed by Jerry Huston (73-72), David Niles (74-80), and Rick Janaes (78-85). Although Wentworth's win may have been an upset, it did not come as a surprise to the long-ball-hitting Huston, who plays to a 2-handicap.

"The reason we won is that we played pretty well," said Huston, 57, father of PGA Tour regular John Huston of Safety Harbor. "That's why we went there in the first place. It was about time someone other than Avila won it."

Huston was 4 under after eight holes the first day at the 7,131-yard Orchid Island course before finding a watery grave on No. 9.

WENTWORTH WINS STATE CLUP TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP Avila's string of six straight ends

June 10, 1997

VERO BEACH, Fla. — Wentworth Golf Club (Tarpon Springs) came from five strokes back after round one to win the 53rd annual Florida State Club Team Championship Sunday. Avila Golf and Country Club (Tampa), who had won the last six championships and was leading after round one, finished tied for third.

After shooting a cumulative day-one score of 289 on the 7,131-yard Orchid Island Golf and Beach Club, Wentworth attacked the 7,102 yard Windsor Club, Mike Barkley shot a 70 to end with a 143 over both rounds. Walter Himelsbau2h followed his 69 at Orchid Island with a 73 at Windsor. Jerry Huston ended with a consistent 73 and 72 to finish at 145. David Niles scores were also used with a 74 on day one and an 80 on the last day. Rick Janaes shot a 78 and 87, but neither of his scores was used. Every shot counted as Wentworth ended just one stroke ahead of Marsh Creek (St. Augustine).

Avila played like defending champions in round one with two players — Doug LaCrosse and Rennie Law — shootin2. 68's. A 73 by Bob Kouwe and a 75 by Wyatt Meyer gave the six-time defending champs a 284 first-round total.

With Wentworth and Marsh Creek playing well, Avila's play seemed to fall. LaCrosse's round-two 74 was their best score. Law ended with a 77, while Meyer and Kouwe both had 80. The high scores allowed Wentworth and Marsh Creek to move ahead and Feather Sound (Clearwater) to move even.

1997 Club Team Championship The Windsor Club and The Orchid Island Golf and Beach Club Vero Beach, Florida June 7 — 8

1. Wentworth	588	8. Avila B	604
Mike Barkley	73-74--147	Paul Royak	69-75--144
David Niles	74-80--154	Kim Schwenke	73-74--147
Jerry Huston	73-72--145	Stuart Sierra	74-81--155
Rick Janaes	78-87--165	Dick Moore	81-81--162
Walter Himelsbaugh	69-73--142	Jerry Coren	83-77--160
2. Marsh Creek	589	9. Temple Terrace A	606
Thomas Beckett	74-75--149	Don Whittemore	72-79--151
John Benson	71-73--144	Brian Hawke	76-78--154
Ron Tumlin	72-73--145	Danny Fischer	76-77--153
Steve Beckett	76-79--155	David Langdon	73-83--156
John Mussoline	72-85--157	Steven Stodghill	72-79--151
3. Feather Sound	596	9. Indian Creek	606
Kevin Dyer	74-79--153	Frank Strafaci	73-72--145

Sean Walla	71-77--148	Andres Gaviria	73-80--153
Jake Kevorkian	77-84--161	Robert Fazio	77-82--159
Bobby Blount	72-76--148	Thomas Danluck	74-75--149
Gary Schmidtke	72-74--146	Gordon O'Neil	77-82--159
3. Avila A	595	11. Tampa Palms A	610
Doug LaCrosse	68-74--142	Dan Shipp	74-89--163
Wyatt Meyer	75-80--155	Rob Glisson	78-75--153
Rennie Law	68-77--145	Jack Hannon	78-77--155
Bob Kouwe	73-80--153	Jimmy Jones	77-78--155
John Fowler	75-73--148	Doug Reintgen	73-78--151
3. Bloomingdale A	599	11. Quail Ridge	610
Mike Walters	74-73--147	Billy Hill	75-82--157
Bill Moore	73-85--158	Jim Anderson	78-78--156
Drew Miller	76-78--154	Vince Chernx	75-74--149
Rusty Napier	75-78--153	Mark Yogan	75-87--162
Denny Rouse	74-74--148	David Haag	74-77--151
6. Martin Downs	601	11. Hunter's Green	610
Rick Spears	73-77--150	Brett Hitchcock	77-73--150
Andy Spears	71-72--143	Earl Lanoue	76-77--153
David Kartner	77-77--154	Dave Fifner	72-81--153
Gil Turner	84-82--166	Don Nyman	73-82--155
John Turner	76-78--154	Bruce Thornberry	76-82--158
7. Cobblestone A	602	14. Fox Hollow	613
Paul Piccolo	76-80--156	Jeff Spath	85-85--170
Carl Carnpaneili	72-81--153	Tommy Roe	70-75--145
Todd Peluso	77-74--151	David McDowell	79-76--155
Lenny Loyd	74-77--151	Donald Wood	83-82--165
Bill Erwin	71-78--149	Tom Halchak	72-76--148
15. Isleworth CC	618	22. TPC at Eagle Trace	631
Stephen Saterbo	82-76--158	Chip Hurd	79-87--166
Peter Williams	75-77--152	Kevin Schaffel	72-81--153
George Rost	76-73--149	Chip Sammons	81-86--167
Jim Gabel	80-89--169	Hank Lehwald	85-83--168
John Mitchell	79-82--161	Lloyd Meisels	71-78--149
15. Florida Club	618	24. Buckhorn Springs	632
Dale Anderson	76-80--156	Michael Cook	77-84--161
Barry Allison	80-79--159	John Walmsley	79-83--162
Woody Smoak	77-81--158	Jim Purtell	77-87--164
Bob Watson	77-76--153	Henry Jackson	74-77--151
Bob Kramer	79-74--153	Mike Smolen	86-81--167

17. Bloomingdale B	619	24. Don Shula's GC	632
Phil Johnson	76-78--154	Robert Meador	77-76--153
Doug Huigens	73-78--151	Robert Stoddard	84-80--164
George Cordial	74-82--156	Joe Kaibac	86-83--169
Chris Matice	82-84--166	Dave Owens	71-75--146
Keith Nye	84-76--160	Robert Pechon	88-89--177
18. Lago Mar	621	24. Tampa Palms B	632
Don Dillon	76-77--153	Art Corrales	80-77--157
Don Grant	80-80--160	Mark Carron	73-82--156
Bob Ethridge	81-84--165	Ed Bologna	82-76--158
Bob Pulley	82-81--163	Phil Kalafut	80-85--165
Rick Woulfe	71-75--146	Pete Reibstein	79-88--167
19. Errol CC	623	24. Hawk's Nest	632
Duane Gossett	80-82--162	Bob Hajas	81-77--158
A.J. Kroeger	73-76--149	Tim Wahl	75-81--156
Larry Black	80-77--157	Jim Beckley	78-79--157
Lance Serine	79-76--155	Mike Corcoran	82-83--165
Dean Stromwall	81-83--164	Pete Myles	78-87--165
20. Riviera B	624	28. Lagorce	636
Lincoln Rodon	75-83--158	Bill Radford	87-78--165
Paul Diaz	86-87--173	Brad Hopkins	80-79--159
Gordie Earle	72-80--152	Jim Reto	88-73--161
Peter Diel	77-78--155	Rick McMahon	76-75--151
John Alexander	80-79--159	Bill Gallagher	91-90--181
21. TPC at Prestancia	625	29. Temple Terrace B	638
Higgins Gayheart	87-90--177	Bobby Kilgore	84-80--164
Tom Tyler	79-80--159	Jim Whittemore	75-79--154
John Hall	71-83--154	Fritz Goltermann	84-76--160
George Cholas	78-80--158	Phil Reid	83-77--160
Tom Robertson	76-78--154	Steve Richards	87-86--173
22. Riviera A	631	30. Palma Ceia	639
John Kane	82-81--163	Max Castro	77-77--154
Biii Henderson	79-81--160	Frank Griffin	74-85--159
Jack Langer	78-76--154	Forrest Boushall	95-85--180
Jeff Leigh	81-81--162	Dick Goerlich	79-82--161
Herman Klerniek	76-79--155	Rick Brown	80-85--165
30. Willoughby	639	39. Port Malabar CC	662
Dan Topping	78-78--156	Michael Gottfried	82-96--178
Rick Szczepanick	89-91--180	Ronald McKendree	80-83--163
John Uffner	84-84--168	Glenn Kerres	79-81--160
Roy McDonald	82-77--159	R. Marshall Hamlin	86-84--170
Kevin Downing	76-80--156	Michael Moreland	82-91--173

30. Cobblestone B	639	40. Sabal Point	668
Jack Ruhs	77-79--156	Chip Landon	80-81--161
Dave Mannix	79-84--163	Geary Girard	81-80--161
Larry Stewart	79-80--159	Glenn Paulk	90-97--187
Sam Sugarman	83-85--168	Tom Stead	91-91--182
Charlie Dyer	81-80--161	Tom Hach	84-81--165
30. Suntree CC	639	41. Legacy	672
Travis Akin	79-80--159	Edwin Muto	82-82--164
Stan Ayer	73-76--149	Richard Shulman	80-91--171
Eldridge Suggs	83-95--178	Stan Malls	80-81--161
Ron Urich	89-92--181	John Anderson	87-89--176
Dick Blornstrom	76-80--156	Don Maynard	101-100--201
34. Avila C	642	42. Avila D	703
Ralph Ghioto III	82-89--171	Steve Szabo	87-86--173
Luis Aibertini	77-82--159	Tom Cummings	88-84--172
John Downs	76-75--151	Bob Callaghan	90-91--181
Eric Rahenkamp	80-83--163	Phil Burke	88-92--180
Pete Donelan	83-87--170	Mike Thomas	89-90--179
35. Laurel Oak A	648	43. Laurel Oak B	704
Scott Truitt	88-81-169	Rich Brothers	94-91--185
John Hager	78-85--163	Mark Ruffalo	87-82--169
Steve Keyser	86-84-170	Jeff Noll	92-93--185
Joe Dutton	79-82-161	Cucho Jimenez	90-79--169
Pat Doyle	78-80--158	Jim Bezdek	90-96--186
35. Emerald Hills	648		
Jaime Dornbusch	72-77--149		
Kenny Peyser	82-80--162		
Elliott Slavis	80-83--163		
Bill Kinney	90-WD--WD		
Peter Hotchkiss	84-90--174		
37. East Lake Woodlands	653		
Jack Gleason	82-84--166		
John Davidson	82-82--164		
Joe Corbett	89-89--178		
Tiny Williamson	80-80--160		
Jack Vasko	86-77--163		
38. Temple Terrace C	658		
Dan Beckman	83-81-164		
Ken Keller	79-85-164		
John Nertney	88-87-175		
Sammy Ferlita	77-78-155		