



# FLORIDA STATE GOLF ASSOCIATION

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## **VEGHTE "RAKES" IN FIELD A 3-under 69 moves the former champion to the top of the State Senior Am**

SARASOTA, Fla. - A familiar name moved to the top of the 22nd Florida State Senior Championship leader board at Sara Bay Country Club in Sarasota. Jack Veghte, a four-time State Amateur champion and two-time State Senior champion, fired a 3-under 69 to move into a tie with Mount Dora's Curt Madson.

Veghte, a Clearwater insurance salesman, had four birdies and a bogey in a round that included a little luck. On his fifteenth hole of the day - a 337-yard par 4 - Veghte hit a rake with his approach shot and the ball stopped 5 feet from the hole. His birdie putt moved him into a tie with Madson.

"I putted better and drove better than I did yesterday," the 63-year old Veghte said. His first-round 77 left him in an 18-man tie for 19<sup>th</sup> place.

Madson stayed consistent on a golf course he really likes. "I like the way this golf course looks," he said following his 2-over 74. "You can look and know exactly where you have to hit it. Like other (Donald) Ross courses, if you hit good shots, it'll reward you."

Madson, who was the first professional at Avila Golf and Country Club in 1980, has won three consecutive Florida State Senior Four-Ball Championships with fellow-senior Ron LeClair, but has not claimed a major state title.

First-round leader Gunnar Bennett took a fall with an 8-over 80. His statistics explain the high score - only 10 greens hit with 38 total putts. During his first-round 69, Bennett only had 28 putts.

"A golfer's confidence is very fragile," Bennett explained. "I had 138 yards into a slight wind on the first hole and flew the green with a 9 iron. The same thing happened on the next hole, and on a Ross course, you can't go over the green. From that point on, I played tentative and you just can't play that way."

The field of 149 will play the final round Wednesday with play starting at 8:00 a.m. The leaders will be the last to start. Following play, an awards ceremony will be held to honor the State Senior champion and the super-senior (ages 70 and over) champion.