

# Nordling Wins 'Tub' 1-Up

By RALPH MOORE  
Denver Post Sports Writer

Mike Putnam looked deep into a big glass of ice water and shook his head. The ice melted slowly. So had his lead.

"I did what I had to do—make an easy birdie—but he did what he had to do and he did it the hard way." Putnam was referring to the crucial 17th hole.

Putnam, 19, had just been victimized once again by the 23-year-old Chris Nordling.

Sunday, Nordling—who will be Putnam's roommate next fall at the University of New Mexico—fired a 34-35-69 to annex both major state amateur golf titles and he nudged Putnam aside both times in his trophy hunt.

**NORDLING WON** the N. C. "Tub" Morris state amateur stroke-play title with a 6-under-par 282 over the over-baked Valley Country Club's 36-36-72 par figures.

Putnam, who lost 3 and 2 in the finals of the state amateur match-play tournament to Nordling at the Rolling Hills Country Club, finished with his third straight one-under-par 36-35-71 and carded a 283, one shot behind his lanky buddy.

The Putnam-Nordling combine went into the final round Sunday with Putnam 1-up at 212. Nordling was at 213 and Paul Brown of Grand Junction, who will serve as assistant golf coach at Arizona this fall, was at 215.

This set the stage for Sunday's finale.

**THE ONLY CONTENDER** to threaten this trio was Pipp Patton, former University of Florida golfer who now resides in Colorado Springs. Patton started at 217 but had it 4-under before he incurred a 2-shot penalty for hitting the wrong ball on the par-5 15th hole. Patton and Gary Longfellow, the defending champion from the Lakewood Country Club, both hit the wrong ball on their second shots and the 2-stroke penalty took the surge out of Patton's run.

Brown moved into a two-way tie for second with Putnam behind Nordling with a birdie 4 into the wind on the par-5 13th, but he bogeyed the 15th and both Putnam and Nordling birdied to once more turn it into a two-way battle.

Putnam's birdie on the 15th came after he hit a telephone pole with his drive, the ball bounding back into the fairway. However, the local rule left Putnam no alternative. He had to return to the tee box and hit a second drive. This time he moved it a solid 300 yards and a few feet ahead of Nordling.

"IT WOULD HAVE gone into the lake, I'm sure," Putnam said of his errant first shot.

Both were shooting at eagles on the 15th, but both two-putted. However, Nordling's second putt here of eight feet marked the first of three crucial putts he made on the last four holes to cinch his victory.

## Coloradans Vie in Golf Meet

Chris Nordling, who added the state stroke-play championship to his match-play crown on Sunday, departed with six other Colorado golfers Sunday night for Provo, Utah, to compete in the Pacific Coast Amateur Golf Championship.

The tournament begins Tuesday at the Riverside Country Club. Others selected were Mike Putnam, Indian Tree Golf Club; Mike Eggeling, Overland Golf Club; David Lee, Cherry Hills County Club, and University of Colorado varsity golfers Steve Jones of Yuma and Rick Cramer of Fort Collins.

Accompanying the team will be Pacific Coast Amateur directors Gary Potter, Dick Kintzele and Warren Simmons. Simmons also will compete in the tournament.

### The Leaders' Cards

PAR OUT	544	343	445-36
Chris Nordling Out	544	332	454-34
Mike Putnam Out	544	335	435-36
PAR IN	444	545	343-36-36-72 (288)
Chris Nordling In	544	544	333-35-35-69 (282)
Mike Putnam In	454	544	333-35-36-71 (283)

The duel was decided on the 17th and 18th greens where Nordling, a notoriously deliberate player, canned successive 10-footers that closed the door on the determined Putnam.

Standing on the 17th tee and a single shot behind Nordling, Putnam knew he needed a birdie to dislodge the stone-faced Nordling.

And he set it up with a solid drive and an 80-yard sand wedge that teased the cup and nearly fell in for an eagle 2. But Nordling looked at his roomie's "gimmie" and then rolled his uphill 10-footer home for his birdie three.

"IF HE MAKES that putt," muttered Joe Putnam, Mike's father, "this tournament is over." Seconds later he shrugged his shoulders as the ball dropped into the cup.

But son Mike had one more chance. At the 18th, a tough 210-yard par-3, Nordling's shot was high and to the right of the heavily banked 18th green, while Putnam's ball was on the green, 40 feet from the pin.

Putnam lagged up within two feet and Nordling's scary chip shot bounded out of the fringe and rolled 10 feet by the pin. But Nordling didn't hesitate. Casually, without a sign of emotion, Nordling rolled in the winner and Putnam shook his hand before he putted out.

The front nine Sunday was a bit more bloody. Nordling and Putnam played the first five holes stroke for stroke and then Nordling birdied the par-3 sixth from 22 feet and Putnam lost his lead and something more when he took a double-bogey 5 coming out of the trees and missing a four-footer.

It was a swing of three shots and Putnam didn't get that much back when Nordling bogeyed the eighth and Putnam posted a birdie 3.

"THAT WAS IT for me," said Putnam, who plays out of the Indian Tree Golf Club. "I said I'd win here if I didn't three-putt or have a double bogey. Well I had two three-putt greens in 72 holes and that one double bogey."

Nordling, who plays out of the Columbine Country Club, had no double bogeys and only one three-putt green.

Nordling recounted his successes this summer, including low qualifier for the U.S. Open with Rick Terrell of the Lake Valley Golf Club. "And I finished second in the Greeley Invitational," he added.

"I've been second place all summer," Putnam said. "I wish Nordling would turn pro."

### FINAL RESULTS

Chris Nordling	71-70-72-67-282
Mike Putnam	70-71-71-71-283
Paul Brown	72-71-72-71-286
Mike Eggeling	66-76-75-70-287
Pipp Patton	74-71-72-72-289
Gregg Jones	74-75-70-72-291
Todd Wood	70-80-70-71-291
Terry Kahl	69-71-77-76-293
Mike Mathies	71-74-74-74-293
Don Garzewski	72-73-77-72-294
Neil Ginsberg	72-73-74-76-295
Mike Mulhern	69-74-76-76-295
Pat English	70-71-78-76-295
Steve Jones	76-75-74-70-295
Paul Kroehnke	73-73-73-77-296
Stuart Hoover	70-75-75-76-296
Scott Lane	68-78-77-73-296
Gary Longfellow	70-74-73-80-297
Chuck Reeves	72-76-72-77-297
Rick Petri	74-72-74-77-297
Lyn Fowler	74-76-73-74-297
Marc Hendricks	71-72-77-77-297
Bob Stallman	74-74-74-76-298
John Olive	69-75-75-79-298
Glen Baxstrom	73-74-75-76-298
John Bradbury	72-72-77-78-298
Gary Polubus	73-76-75-75-299
David Lee	74-75-76-74-299
Ron Chase	77-74-73-75-299
Steve Fry	72-76-75-77-300
Mickey Brethower	73-78-74-75-300
Mark Armistead	71-76-74-79-300
John Hamer	76-74-75-75-300
Conny Paulding	75-76-74-76-301
Johnnie Williams	72-79-72-79-302
H. Randolph Frank	72-75-77-78-302
James Ostrom	74-77-74-78-303
Garv Hanson	73-76-75-80-304
Keith Masters	77-74-72-82-305



Denver Post Photo by John Prieto

### 10-FOOTER WRAPS UP STATE AMATEUR CROWN

Chris Nordling saves par at 18 for 1-shot margin over Mike Putnam in "Tub" Morris tournament.