

Jobe closes out Keffer 7 and 6

By **DAVE NELSON**
Rocky Mountain News Staff Writer

COLORADO SPRINGS — Brandt Jobe wanted to set the record straight.

He was depressed. He was tired. And his confidence was almost gone before he turned the screws and tightened down a record-setting 7 and 6 victory over Don Keffer in the State Match Play Championship Sunday at the Broadmoor South Golf Club.

The victory enabled Jobe, 18, to become the first player in history to win both a state junior and a state amateur title in the same year. And it also enabled him to become the youngest State Match Play champion in history.

Bill Clark of Lakewood Country Club was 19 years and 21 days old when he won the Match Play crown in 1970. His father, Bob Clark Sr., and Mark Crabtree of Fort Collins were 19 when they claimed the title in 1940 and 1975, respectively.

And Jobe's margin of victory was the most decisive since Ken Krieger rolled to an 8 and 7 victory over Scott Lane in 1977 at Lakewood Country Club. Bill Musselman recorded a 7 and 6 triumph in 1967 at Hyland Hills Golf Club.

Jobe was 1-down after the morning 18 Sunday and he then lost the first hole of the afternoon round to go 2-down.

"It was tough for me mentally," Jobe admitted after he had shanked an iron on the 17th hole of the morning round to allow Keffer to seize the lead. Keffer then chipped in to halve the 18th hole and won the first hole of the afternoon round when Jobe was short with his approach and bogeyed the hole.

"I was the one who was tired (after the

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morning round) and when Keffer won the first hole (in the afternoon), I thought to myself: 'you really blew it.' My confidence wasn't very good at that point."

It also turned out to be the turning point for the youngster from Cherry Hills.

Jobe promptly won eight of the next nine holes, including a run of five straight from the second through the sixth, and breezed to a rocking-chair victory over his 40-year-old opponent from Lakewood Country Club.

"I was tired physically and mentally," Keffer admitted. "I couldn't put any pressure on him at all the last 18 holes. I was just too tired."

"This is the last tournament I'm going to play in where you have to play 36 holes (in one day). A marathon is too long for me. To play six straight days (including the qualifying rounds) and then try to play 36 holes is too much for me. I can't do that."

"My game is tuned to playing 18 holes. After that, all the air goes out of the balloon. I can't get my batteries charged up again. I didn't hit one good shot on the range (the practice tee) in between rounds. He (Jobe) played awfully well. But it is a different ball game if I can put some pressure on him."

Keffer, who had won 11 of his previous 12 matches in this tournament — including an extra-hole, sudden-death defeat to Ron Moore in the finals of the 1981 tournament — applied plenty of pressure in the morning round.

After going 2-down on the front nine, he won the 10th, 13th, 15th and 17th holes to seize the lead.

But Jobe played brilliantly starting on the second hole of the afternoon round and was 6-under for the last 11 holes of the match.

He dropped a 10-foot birdie putt on the second hole, unloaded a mammoth drive of 370 yards, setting up another birdie on the par-5 third, drained a 23-foot birdie putt on the fourth, won the fifth with a par, and reached the par-5 sixth in two and two-putted for still another birdie.

He birdied the eighth from 20 feet, birdied the par-5 10th and then closed out the match with a birdie putt of 49 feet on the 12th hole.

"I enjoyed winning it that way," Jobe smiled. "That was an exciting way to finish. I was tired but sometimes when I get tired, I swing a little smoother. I think I've improved a lot mentally. I used to see how hard I could hit it. Now, I think I do a lot more thinking as far as positioning my shots."

Jobe has been on a tear for the past month. He won the Junior Match Play title at Applewood, shared medalist honors in qualifying for the Colorado Open with a 69 and won five straight matches — two of them extra hole duels — here this week.

"I've really been on a run," Jobe said. "I don't know that it was completely unexpected. I think I'm capable of doing it. But things have really gone my way the past month. I had some tough matches this week. But I just took it one hole at a time."

Meanwhile, Keffer ran up the white flag of surrender.

"I'm going to take my two second-place finishes and retire from this tournament," Keffer concluded. "But I would trade the two seconds for one first. I was 1-up after 18 holes today. I'm going to leave it at that. That's the way I'm going to remember it."