

Crabtree shoots 67, claims state publincs

By GARY BAINES
Camera Sports Writer

LONGMONT — Despite never having seen the course prior to the tournament, Mark Crabtree put on a tee-to-green clinic to win the State Public Links Championship Sunday at Twin Peaks Golf Course.

The former University of Colorado golfer hit 47 of a possible 54 greens in regulation and pulled away Sunday with a 3-under-par 67 to win the event by four shots. His 54-hole total was 1-under-par 209.

"I feel like I can go to any course and hit the ball on the green," said Crabtree. "I feel I have the ability to hit it on every green. When I miss a green, there's something wrong. There's no doubt that tee to green, I'm playing better than I ever have before."

The victory was Crabtree's first in a Colorado Golf Association event since he won back-to-back state match play titles in 1975 and '76 during his college days at CU.

Just as important, Crabtree's performance in the final two rounds earned him one of three available spots for the U.S. Publincs tournament, which will be held July 16-21 in Portland. On Saturday and Sunday, when the event doubled as the national qualifier, Crabtree shot 70-67-137 to advance to his first U.S. Public Links tourney (he did go to the 1977 U.S. Amateur). Crabtree will be joined in Portland by Tom McGraw of Westminster (69-70-139), who will be going to his fourth national publincs, and ex-CU golfer Mike Glaesel (73-67-140), who will be making his second appearance at the nationals.



MIKE GLAESEL
Ex-Buff qualifies for his second U.S. publincs tournament.

Glaesel's 67 on Sunday was his best round of the summer and helped him rally to a fifth-place finish in the state event after starting slow with rounds of 75 and 73.

"I'm starting to play a little better," he said. "I really struggled with my irons the first two days. This course seems like it'd be easy, but on a lot of the holes, you can't go for the pin."

While Glaesel finished strong, no one was a better tactician for the entire week than Crabtree. The Fort Collins High School teacher made three birdies and no bogeys in Sunday's final round and had a comfortable lead most of the day.

Only when Shane Bertsch of Lakewood birdied Nos. 14, 15 and 16 was Crabtree's lead cut to two, but Bertsch fell back into

a second-place tie in the state event with bogeys on the final two holes.

Bertsch finished with a 54-hole total of 213 along with McGraw and Denver's Ron Kosmatka.

Crabtree gave himself an early cushion Sunday with birdie putts of 30 and 15 feet on holes 4 and 6. The 34-year-old then all but assured himself of victory with a tap-in birdie on the par-4 15th.

"I felt I could shoot 66 or 67, but it depended on how I putted," Crabtree said. "(67) is not a bad score."

The win was Crabtree's most important since he got his amateur status back in 1983 after playing in the pro ranks from 1978 to '81.

"I've grown and matured as a player," he said. "This (win) proves to me that I'm a halfway decent player and that all the work I put into the game is paying off."

In fact, it's paying off so well that it's put Crabtree — as well as McGraw and Glaesel — in a potential dilemma. If any of them advance to the late rounds in next month's state match play, they'll have to either forfeit or skip the practice rounds for the national publincs. Then if they make it beyond the first round of match play in the publincs, they'll have to decide whether they want to continue there or forfeit and quickly fly home for the Colorado Open, which begins July 19.

State Publincs

Finals results from the State Public Links tournament which ended Sunday at the par-70 Twin Peaks Golf Course in Longmont. Note — Only the final two rounds of the tournament counted toward the U.S. Publincs qualifying.

| STATE PUBLINCS | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Mark Crabtree, Fort Collins | 72 70 67—209 |
| Ron Kosmatka, Denver | 71 73 69—213 |
| Shane Bertsch, Lakewood | 70 73 70—213 |
| Tom McGraw, Westminster | 74 69 70—213 |
| Mike Glaesel, Arvada | 75 73 67—215 |
| Ray Brangan, Fort Worth, Texas | 67 76 72—215 |
| Jamie Dawson, Boulder | 70 76 70—216 |
| Rick DeWitt, Arvada | 70 74 72—216 |
| Steve Murphy, Westminster | 73 74 70—217 |
| Tony Aguilar, Arvada | 72 74 73—219 |
| Rick Petri, Greeley | 73 72 74—219 |
| Rick Uhlir, Boulder | 69 73 77—219 |
| Ray Makloski, Trinidad | 74 70 76—220 |
| Brian Dewbre | 71 79 71—221 |
| Pete Lugowski, Phoenix | 72 70 79—221 |
| Randell Harrist, Littleton | 74 76 72—222 |
| Joel Atkinson, Greeley | 78 72 72—222 |
| Greg Shakespeare, Littleton | 76 73 73—222 |
| Anthony Preston, Denver | 71 76 75—222 |
| Harry King, Denver | 73 72 77—222 |
| Jonathan Kaye, Denver | 74 77 72—223 |
| Paul Alexander, Boulder | 77 76 71—224 |
| Other Scores of Local Interest | |
| Chuck Melvin, Boulder | 76 75 76—227 |
| John Holmberg, Boulder | 80 74 75—229 |
| Bob Bows, Longmont | 75 77 78—230 |
| Dominic Marconi, Broomfield | 80 81 71—232 |
| David Gross Jr., Boulder | 75 75 82—232 |
| Tray Shehee, Boulder | 76 81 77—234 |
| Michael Grant, Longmont | 84 73 77—234 |
| Vance Pollock, Boulder | 74 81 80—235 |
| Owen Ellis, Boulder | 82 73 80—235 |
| Matt Schalk, Longmont | 83 78 76—237 |
| Bruce Hayes, Boulder | 86 75 78—239 |
| Matt Uelen, Longmont | 78 84 77—239 |
| David Gross Sr., Boulder | 78 83 81—242 |
| Bob Foster, Longmont | 81 83 80—244 |
| Steve Webb, Boulder | 84 76 88—248 |
| Stewart Koch, Boulder | 84 83 83—250 |



CLIFF GRASSMICK / Daily Camera

A RARE MISTAKE: When Mark Crabtree missed the green with his tee shot on the par-3 17th hole Sunday, it was one of only seven times in 54 holes that he failed to hit a green in regulation. But Crabtree nevertheless parred the hole after this chip.