

CU transfer Petersen wins State Stroke Play

By GARY BAINES
Camera Sports Writer

PUEBLO — Scott Petersen, who has the distinction of winning more state junior golf titles than anyone in Colorado history, opened a new chapter in his career Sunday by claiming the State Stroke Play amateur championship at Pueblo Country Club.

Petersen, who hopes to start playing tournament golf for the University of Colorado this season after transferring from Tulsa in 1990, posted a three-shot victory by carding a 3-over-par 74 in Sunday's final round. His 7-under-par 277 total was three better than defending champion Dave McCleave and Colorado State golf coach Mark Crabtree, both of whom are from Fort Collins.

Crabtree, a CU golfer in the 1970s, thus kept intact his amazing run of close-but-no-cigar finishes in the State Stroke Play. He's been in the top five each of the last six years, but has yet to win. He has two second-place finishes, two thirds, a fourth and a fifth.

"Hopefully, some year I'll win," said Crabtree, who continues to struggle on the greens. "I still contend I have the best record of anyone during that stretch, but I'll finish where I finish until I become a better putter."

Crabtree closed with a 69, while McCleave had a 71.

In fourth place alone at 282 was Tom Kalinowski of Durango, who also hopes to play golf this season for CU. Kalinowski's record this summer now includes winning the State Public Links Championship, a second in the State Match Play, a U.S. Amateur berth and a fourth in the State Stroke Play.

But the tournament belonged to Petersen after his 6-under 65 Saturday — his best competitive round ever — gave him a six-stroke advantage heading into Sunday's final round. Although Crabtree threatened to give Petersen a run on Sunday, Petersen's lead was never less than three strokes.

"This feels real good, but it hasn't really sunk in yet," said Petersen, a 21-year-old from En-

STATE STROKE PLAY

Final results from the State Stroke Play Championship completed Sunday at the par-71 Pueblo Country Club.

Scott Petersen, Englewood	68-70-65-74—277
Mark Crabtree, Fort Collins	69-69-73-69—280
Dave McCleave, Fort Collins	70-67-72-71—280
Tom Kalinowski, Durango	72-69-72-69—282
George Andrews, Pueblo	74-70-71-70—285
Rocky Taravella, Pueblo	72-72-69-72—285
Tony Aguilar, Arvada	71-72-71-71—285
Todd Murphy, Beaver Creek	71-72-71-73—287
Rich Riesner, Pueblo	70-69-77-72—288
Joe Brady, Denver	73-70-75-72—290
Greg Chinn, Greeley	72-78-70-71—291
Scott Peterson, Denver	77-70-69-75—291
Grant Wittenwyler, Denver	73-73-71-73—292
Mike Lewis, Pueblo	70-74-72-76—292
Gary Longfellow, Castle Rock	73-74-74-72—293
Tucker Nelson, Greeley	69-75-77-72—293
Bob Kalinowski, Durango	77-71-74-72—294
Bob Burg, Littleton	73-70-79-72—294
Brian Dewbre, Lamar	70-73-73-78—294
Chuck Melvin, Boulder	72-76-68-78—294
Jonathan Kaye, Denver	79-71-73-72—295
Randy Harrist, Littleton	74-72-73-76—295
Rick DeWitt, Arvada	71-74-71-76—295
Matt Julander, Littleton	74-69-74-79—296
Jim Brooks, Pueblo	71-73-73-79—296
Morgan Murphy, Salida	77-69-75-77—298
Bobby Anderson, Englewood	78-72-72-76—298
Keith Martin, Longmont	71-75-71-81—298
William Bekeza, Pueblo	70-77-79-73—299
Harry King, Denver	73-76-77-73—299
Greg Shakespeare, Littleton	74-71-79-75—299
Erik Heiny, Greeley	72-76-76-75—299
Paul Alexander, Boulder	77-73-72-77—299
Brian Soerensen, C-Springs	74-75-78-73—300
Trey Maples, Englewood	74-74-76-76—300
Eric Mork, Littleton	77-75-74-75—301
Steve Cribari, Golden	76-76-72-77—301
Tray Shehee, Boulder	77-73-76-74—302
Shane Bertsch, Evergreen	76-76-74-76—302
Jamie Dawson, Boulder	77-74-72-79—302
Bill Schroeder	83-71-79-70—303
Jeff Salter, Denver	74-77-76-76—303
Tom Schultz, Trinidad	77-76-74-76—303
Bob Heiny, Greeley	75-75-76-77—303
Mark Donahue, Englewood	76-76-76-76—304
Kevin Hyman, C-Springs	81-73-78-73—305
G.P. Sinnott, Aspen	81-73-78-76—308
Bud Andersen, Boulder	78-76-78-76—308
Steve Tourville, C-Springs	77-77-79-76—309
Kelly Crone, Larkspur	79-75-80-76—310
John Pappadakis, C-Springs	76-75-78-81—310
Todd Wood, C-Springs	74-79-81-77—311
Gregg Poole, Littleton	77-76-78-80—311
Steve Claytor, Loveland	77-77-79-79—312
John Ceplo, Pueblo	77-75-75-85—312
Tim Kerber, Littleton	78-76-81-78—313
George Hanke, Littleton	83-70-80-83—316
Peter Pappas, Greeley	71-78-79-89—317
Mark Swanson, Pueblo	79-74-84-81—318
Troy Campbell, C-Springs	77-76-83-84—320
Sean Forey, Golden	73-75-73-WD

glewood. "It's a big step for me. I've been close in tournaments all summer. I thought it was just a matter of time."

But the victory didn't turn out to be the runaway it looked like it might become after 54 holes. Petersen gave McCleave and Crabtree a chance by 4-putting the first hole Sunday for a double bogey.

Crabtree, who started the day eight back of Petersen, made up

ground by going 4 under par on his first 10 holes, which narrowed the gap to three. But a poorly hit wedge shot on the par-5 11th resulted in a bogey, and Crabtree also missed a couple of short putts down the stretch.

"I knew the only way I'd have a chance of winning was by shooting 5 or 6 under," said Crabtree. "I had some chances on the front side, but I didn't make the putts that would've put some pressure on (Petersen). Still, that's an awful lot of shots to make up."

The crucial stretch for Petersen came on Nos. 13-14. He took a three-stroke lead into the par-3 13th hole, but rolled his first putt 10 feet past the cup. But he dropped in that testy uphill par putt to maintain his lead.

"The long putt he made there left him enough space (to finish the round with some comfort)," said Crabtree.

Petersen gave himself some more breathing room with a 12-foot birdie on No. 14. But as it turned out, both McCleave and Crabtree had to make final-hole birdies to finish within three of Petersen.

For the day, Petersen carded four birdies, five bogeys and a double bogey.

Now the main thing Petersen has to sweat out is whether he has the grades to officially enter CU this fall and compete for the golf team. For the past year, he's been taking CU Continuing Education classes and practicing regularly with the Buffs.

If CU doesn't admit him, Petersen says he will go to another university rather than lose one of his two remaining years of athletic eligibility.