

Fry Comes From Behind

by Ed Mate

With five holes remaining in the Colorado Golf Association's Stroke Play Championship it appeared as if Pat Fry was headed for yet another runner-up finish. Fry, a 20-year old University of Wyoming junior, had blown a lead and was now three-strokes behind Indian Tree's Jeff Fujimoto with only five holes remaining. Fry was one of the state's outstanding junior players in recent years but he was never able to break through and win one of the big tournaments. His junior golf career ended aptly with a second place finish in the State High School Championship in 1991. The CGA Stroke Play Championship, played at Indian Peaks Golf Course on August 11-14, looked to be a continuation of Fry's history as a bridesmaid.

The 1994 Stroke Play Championship began with fireworks. David Powers of Foothills Golf Course blistered the 7,083 yard course with a six-under 66 in the first round, establishing a new course record. With his opening round Powers won the Maschinot Medal, an award named after long-time CGA friend Jim Maschinot, and given to the medalist in the Stroke Play each year. Powers played a flawless round posting six birdies and no bogies. While Powers stormed to the front Jeff Fujimoto of Indian Tree Golf Course and Pat Fry of Collindale Golf Course, two former junior golf rivals, both posted three-under 69s to stay close.

The second round was another record-setter as Jason Brandt of Highland Hills Golf Course in Greeley shot a seven-under 65. Brandt started his round with five straight birdies and finished with a total of eight birdies and one bogey knocking off the one-day old course record established by Powers the previous afternoon. As

Brandt stole the spotlight and Powers faded with a seven-over 79, Fry and Fujimoto again shot three-under 69s to quietly stay within reach of the lead.

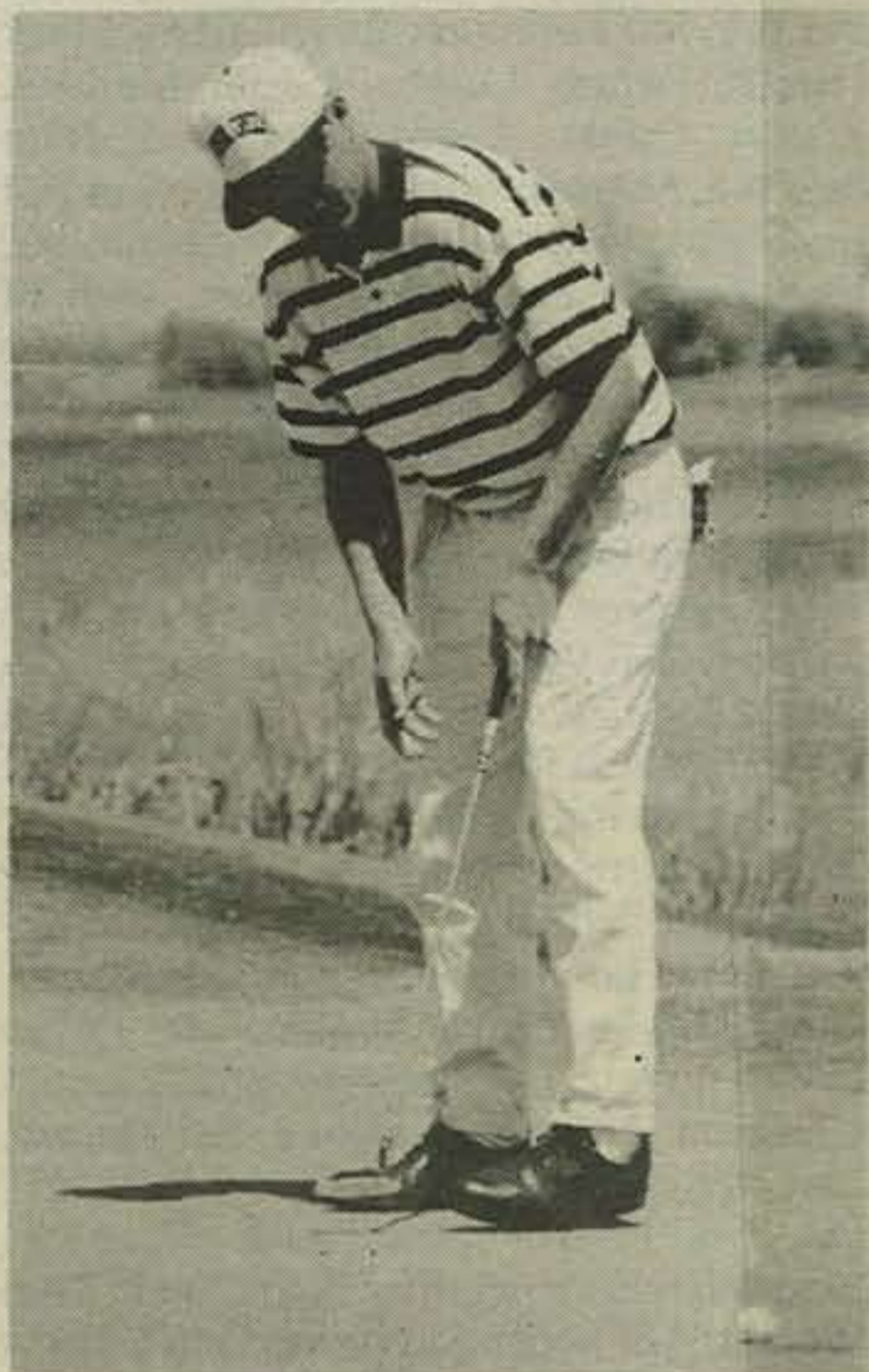
The battle was joined in the third round as Pat Fry posted a one-under 71 and Fujimoto came in one stroke behind with an even-par 72. Brandt came back down to earth with a third round 81. The leader board began to look a bit more familiar with Fry and Fujimoto on top and names like Mark Crabtree and Rick DeWitt on their heels. Matthew Bryant of Indian Tree



Jeff Fujimoto, runner-up, of Indian Tree Golf Course shows off his pro-like form during the CGA's Stroke Play Championship.

Golf Course shot the low round of the day on Saturday, a four-under 68, which put him just two strokes out of the lead.

The final round of the Stroke Play was a clear August day. After three straight days of afternoon thundershowers the weather for the final round was clear and mild. Fry looked like the player to beat as he opened his final round with birdies on the first two holes. Fujimoto and Bryant played steady golf to stay close and when Fry double-bogied the par-four 9th only one stroke separated the three players. Heading into the par-four 13th Fujimoto had taken a one stroke lead over Fry. At the 13th Fujimoto sunk an eight-footer for



Champion Pat Fry waits for one more turn on this birdie putt on the par-three 14th in the final round of the CGA Stroke Play Championship.

birdie, and Fry got too aggressive with his birdie bid and three-putted for bogey. Suddenly Fujimoto found himself three strokes ahead of Fry and two ahead of Matthew Bryant.

Fry bounced right back with a birdie on the 156-yard 14th to trim the lead to two. Fujimoto bogied the 15th after his drive found a fairway bunker and Fry made a routine par to pull to within one. Fry rifled a three-iron fifteen feet right of the hole on the 225-yard par-three 16th while Fujimoto's approach found a bunker left and long. After Fujimoto blasted to five feet, Fry drained his right-to-left breaking putt to pull even with Fujimoto. Fujimoto, a 21-year old Scottsdale Community College junior, showed steel nerves sinking his five-foot par-saving putt to keep pace with Fry.

Both players birdied the par-five 17th and both split the fairway on the 439-yard 18th. After 71 and a half holes Pat Fry and Jeff Fujimoto were separated by about ten yards. Fry was away and he put his wedge approach twelve feet from the cup. With the pressure squarely on his shoulders Fujimoto hit his second shot to the 18th long and left but on the green — 28 feet from the cup. With Fry staring birdie right in the face, Fujimoto putted aggressively. The ball just missed on the low-side of the hole and slid six feet past. Fry lagged his 12-foot birdie putt to within 10 inches and won the tournament when Fujimoto's 6-footer slid by the right edge of the hole.

"It's a great feeling to win," Fry said. "Nothing else I've done really compares." While the victory was sweet, Fry admitted that he would have preferred to make his birdie than to see Jeff miss. "We've played against each other for a long time and there is no nicer guy than Jeff. Win or lose he's always got a smile on his face. Obviously, I would have much rather won with a birdie on 18 than to have Jeff three-putt."

STATE STROKE PLAY

Results after Sunday's final round of the State Amateur Stroke Play held at the par-72 Indian Peaks Golf Course in Lafayette.

Pat Fry, Collindale GC	69-69-71-70-279
Jeff Fujimoto, Indian Tree GC	69-69-72-70-280
Matt Bryant, Boomerang GC	71-72-68-69-280
Robert Odom, Indian Pks GC	70-73-70-70-283
Mark Crabtree, Collindale GC	70-72-71-71-284
Paul Alexander, Br Creek GC	72-71-71-71-285
Tom Stacy, Hillcrest GC	73-74-69-70-286
Rick DeWitt, Indian Tree GC	72-68-73-74-287
John Segelke, Cherry Hills	70-73-69-75-287
Cam Osler, Collindale GC	74-71-72-72-288
Brian Guetz, Columbine CC	75-69-72-72-288
Tim Burns, Foothills GC	71-76-69-72-288
David Powers, Foothills GC	66-79-73-71-289
Rick George, Castle Pines	73-72-69-75-289
Kent Moore, Cherry Hills CC	75-69-70-75-289
John Luoma, Pine Creek GC	76-71-73-70-290
Jason Brandt, Highland Hills	70-65-81-74-290
Bob Heiny, Highland Hills	70-76-73-72-291
Bobby Kline, S. Suburban	73-72-73-73-291
John Zerwin, Indian Pks GC	72-78-69-72-291
Mike Troyer, Boulder CC	71-72-73-75-291
John Olive, Broadmoor GC	72-75-74-71-292
Mark Troyer, Boulder CC	75-76-70-71-292
Brad Neher, S. Suburban GC	75-75-72-71-293
Carl Juengst, Loveland GC	72-72-73-76-293
Norton Rainey, Inverness GC	75-75-73-71-294
Scott Thomas, Columbine	73-73-72-76-294
Ken Moore, Valley CC	73-73-77-72-295
Bill Boyd, Highland Hills GC	74-77-71-73-295
Mike Henry, Sunset GC	71-74-76-74-295
Brad Dinkel, Fox Hollow GC	77-72-77-70-296
Kelly Crone, Perry Park GC	73-78-74-71-296
George Sinnott, Aspen GC	73-75-74-74-296
Tom Richardson, Inverness	74-76-72-74-296
Tom White, Meridian GC	72-74-75-75-296
Don Orrell, Vail GC	73-74-76-74-297
Erich Helmich, Aspen GC	74-74-73-76-297
Eric Mork, Columbine CC	70-72-77-78-297
J.D. Manning, Collindale GC	74-72-83-70-299
Chad Buckridge, Indn Pks	76-75-72-76-299
Grant Wittenwyler, Prk Hill	76-69-75-79-299
Mark Spinner, Hynd Hills	73-73-79-75-300
Scott Mendelsohn, Woodm	73-76-76-75-300
David Brown, Lone Tree GC	80-71-73-76-300
Rick Garber, Fox Hollow GC	73-76-74-77-300
John Kaiser, Fox Hollow GC	74-72-81-74-301
Jeff Salter, Ranch CC	75-76-75-77-303
Terry Russell, Meadw Hills	76-69-77-81-303
M.J. Mastalir, Denver CC	76-74-79-75-304
Kenji Tanaka, Heather Ridge	72-75-78-79-304
David Gross, Flatirons GC	77-72-75-81-305
Tim Kratz, Park Hill GC	75-76-78-79-308
Brian Mooney, Lakewood CC	75-74-81-80-310
Allan Hodgson, Wellshire GC	75-75-76-DQ
Steve Bell, Park Hill GC	79-71-77-WD