SEEKS BERTH IN U.S. TOURNEY

Fowler Wins State Senior Golf

By RALPH MOORE
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Les Fowler gave a little golf clinic to boys of winter Friday as he won the 1980 Colorado State Seniors stroke play championship by a wide six-shot margin.

The state senator from Boulder who coached the University of Colorado golf team for 25 years, carded rounds of 70-71-73 for a 2-under-par 214 from the big blue tees (7,080 yards) of The Pinery Country Club.

Runner-up James English Sr. who has won state amateur titles in four states and was low amateur in the 1980 U.S. Open at Winged Foot, was nine shots up on Gil Galligos of The Pinery and Bill Waggener of the Denver Country Club, but had nothing to challenge the pure, steady game of Fowler.

English finished at 223. Galligos, who signed a wrong card and was disqualified, and Waggener each had 228s.

"You lapped the field on us," Waggener offered in praise of Fowler's performance. English, who could have put a bit of pressure on Fowler with a more consistent putter, felt Fowler was just too consistent for any of the seniors to touch.

MONDAY, FOWLER will be at the Rolling Hills Country Club, seeking one of three area berths available for the first U.S. Senior Open golf tournament scheduled at Winged Foot, Mamaroneck, N.Y.

"I'd love to be one of the three," Fowler admitted. "Who wouldn't want to play in the inaugural of this tournament?"

For the three rounds of the 54-hole seniors, Fowler was 8-under-par on the four par 5s at The Pinery, capping his first round with an eagle 3 on the 613-yard 18th where he reached with a drive and a 3-wood and then drilled a 5-foo't putt.

He birdied each of the four par 5s his second round and had birdies on both the front nine par 5s Friday. He admitted getting greedy at the 18th Friday and it cost him a bogey 6. Otherwise he would have matched or broken par all three rounds.

With the wind at his back Friday he "reached" for a husky drive off the tee and duck-hooked the ball into the rough. This broke the golden rule that got him where he is today, playing sound, smart golf. Fowler came out of the rough short, found a sand bunker with his third shot, and then blasted out 50 feet beyond the green. However, he came back with a nifty chip 3 feet from the pin to salvage his bogey 6.

AS FAR as the tournament was concerned, it was academic. As far as Fowler is concerned, it was a mortal sin. His playing philosophy at the age of 55 is to play within his strength and talent. His consistency stems from holding himself in control of his game at all times.

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FRIDAY'S RESULTS


First Flight — Jim Gwinn, 204; Bob Kortin, 216; J. Wilson, 214; Ed Nancewicz, 216.

Second Flight — Bob Roberts, 214; Bill Pritts, 214; Rudy Vesper, 215; Cliff Brunck, 215.

Third Flight — Jim Laufhein, 209; Jim McBurney, 219; A. Maxey, 221; Mike Karan, 221; Fourth Flight — Vince En- kler, 218; Vern Schroer, 218; Bob Milne, 221; Lyke Scott, 221; Fifth Flight — Oscar Weble, 222; Holm Plester, 222; D. Vanhorne, 224; Lyke Lettell, 224; Masters Flight (70 and older). Harry Wrenn, 199; Roy Sands, 211; Harold Gom- mer, 219; Howard Peck, 223.