Jobe claims Junior Boys title despite ‘late arrival’

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Brandt Jobe couldn’t have picked a worse week to make his summer debut. Colorado’s best junior golfer didn’t finish his freshman term at UCLA until last week. He didn’t return to Denver until last Friday. He played for the first time in nearly a month on Saturday.

Yet Thursday, despite the problems, Jobe, 18, overcame two challengers as well as the mid-day heat to win the 1984 Colorado Golf Association Junior Boys State Match Play Championship. He won it with relative ease, too. Competing at Applewood Golf Course, which has never given him trouble, Jobe beat Fort Collins’ Bill Riddle 2-up to win the title. Thursday morning, Jobe had defeated Mike Potter 4-and-3 in the semifinals. None of it was surprising — at least to Jobe’s opponents. Last summer, Jobe shot a course-record 63 at Applewood en route to the Junior State Stroke Play title, a title which left the Kent Denver Country Day graduate thinking of more.

“My goal,” said Jobe, “was to win both the medal and match championships. Now, I guess I pretty much have the junior level covered. I guess it’s on to the men’s division.”

Jobe had another incentive Thursday. UCLA will determine its fall roster by the results of summer play. So Jobe, who made the Bruins’ varsity team last fall, hardly hurt his chances. Actually, he could have ended the championship match much sooner. Jobe sank birdie putts of 15, 20 and 8 feet on the first, sixth and seventh holes, giving him a three-hole lead at the turn.

But then Riddle rallied. The 17-year-old Rocky Mountain High School student won the 11th and 14th holes with pars. So entering the 559-yard par-5 15th hole, Jobe led by just one hole. But Jobe chipped to within inches and finished with a birdie 4 to go up by two holes with three left to play.

Jobe could have ended the match on the par-5 16th, but he missed a 5-foot birdie putt. At 17, Jobe missed a 12-foot putt, and had to settle for a bogey 4. But then Riddle missed a 6-foot par putt, and the match was over.

Riddle defeated Mike Glaesel 6-and-5 in the semifinals. He birdied the first four holes, sinking putts of 25 and 40 feet on the third and fourth holes.

“But I was a little tense for the championship,” said Riddle. “We both were.”