Richardson wins Public Links

Tom Richardson of South Suburban Golf Course shot a 1-over par 73 Sunday at Legacy Ridge Golf Course in Westminster to win the Colorado Golf Association Public Links Championship. Richardson finished the tournament at 1 over par to finish three strokes ahead of runner-up Jeff Fujimoto of Indian Tree.

Richardson, 20, a Colorado State junior, led by two strokes heading into Sunday's third and final round and played steady golf over the difficult 7,251-yard Arthur Hills course.

Fujimoto, a teammate of Richardson's at CSU, mounted an early charge with birdies at Nos. 2, 3 and 9 which pulled him even with Richardson heading into the final nine.

Fujimoto's bid for the lead ended, however, after a double bogey on the 552-yard 11th hole. Richardson played Nos. 10, 11 and 12 in 2 under par while Fujimoto played the same stretch of holes in 2 over.

That sudden turn of events gave Richardson a four-stroke cushion and allowed him to coast in with an easy win.

"It's really a privilege to win this tournament," Richardson said after his first CGA victory. "This is the first year I've been able to play in this tournament, and to win it is really special."

"I'm really proud of the way I hung in there all three days. This golf course is very difficult and you have to be patient."

The state's best amateurs were put to the test throughout the tournament by Legacy Ridge's narrow driving areas and deep native grasses.

The lowest round of the tournament was a 2-under 70 by Rob Odom of Indian Peaks Golf Course on Saturday.

Odom's round was one of only three sub-par rounds over the three days of the tournament.