

# Torrid Front Nine

## Key to Lee's Win

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AIR FORCE ACADEMY — Dave Lee was worried. He had a plane to catch. But first he had to face Carter Mathies in the finals of the Colorado State Match Play Golf Championships at Eisenhower Golf Club here.

Lee had been forced to play an extra-hole match Saturday and entered the second round of his 36-hole match with Mathies dead even. A couple of extra holes in the afternoon, and his scheduled trip to Seattle to play in the Pacific Coast Amateur Tournament might have to be postponed.

But Lee had a solution—play the best golf of his life, set a course record and end the match with four holes remaining. That would get things over with in plenty of time to make his flight. And that's just what he did.

Lee, a sophomore-to-be at Arizona State University, fired a course-record 31 on Eisenhower's front nine in the afternoon round. He had birdies on three, four, five, seven and nine to go with four pars for his record round.

MATHIES, OF EVERGREEN, found himself wondering what had hit him. He played excellent golf himself, shooting a two-under-par 34 and still found himself behind by three holes as he headed for the 10th tee.

"I was hitting the ball so well," Mathies said, "but I kept losing holes."

"That's the best competitive round I've ever played," Lee said. "I knew my putts had to start dropping. I missed so many in the morning that the odds were they had to start going in."

"Carter was playing great, too, though," Lee added. "I sure figured that if I was 5-under I'd be more than 3-up."

As it was, had Mathies not missed a short putt for birdie on the ninth hole, Lee's 5-under round would have netted him only a 2-hole lead.

"That was definitely the turning point," the 1976 Colorado prep champion (Cherry Creek High School) said. "Two-up isn't much of a lead but 3-up is a lot. Especially mentally."

Mathies agreed.

"NINE WAS absolutely the turning point," he said.

Mathies was lined up and ready to tap his four-foot putt when two youngsters strolled past the green, distracting him. He backed away from the ball and then stroked his putt badly.

"There was a spike-mark in my (putting) line," he explained. "I had it blocked out of my mind until I backed away, but when I got back over the putt, I just couldn't block it out again. So I hit the ball to miss the mark and I missed the putt. It changed my frame of mind completely."

Lee wasted little time in landing a knockout punch. He won the 10th hole to go 4-up, and won 12 when Mathies got in trouble in the trees.

MATHIES WAS gracious in defeat, even offering some advice to Lee about his putting stroke. But he acknowledged that he's getting a little tired of finishing as runner-up. He lost in the finals of the Broadmoor Men's Invitational last week to Bill Loeffler.

"Bill and Dave are two of my best friends," Mathies said. "But I am getting tired of losing, even to my best friends. I'm happy for Dave because he had to win today to make the Governor's cup team."

The Governor's Cup competition, matching Colorado's top amateurs against the state's best pros, is scheduled for Lakewood Country Club Aug. 20.

"This was a big win for me," Lee said. "I really like playing in the Governor's Cup and I had to have this win today."