

Pro Golfers Edge Amateurs for Cup

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COLORADO SPRINGS — Excuse the pun, but no matter how you sliced it, the professionals came out with a 12½-11½ victory in the ninth annual Governor's Cup matches between the state's top professional and amateur golfers Sunday at the South Course of the Broadmoor Golf Club complex.

Complex . . . ?

Yes, there was controversy. And it was complex. The deciding points came on a ruling that will be changed in January of 1980.

Paul McMullen, one of the finest club professionals in the business, skulled a shot out of a bunker on the 14th green and it hit the cart that held the clubs of Dave Schey of Longmont and Mike Putnam of the Indian Tree Golf Club in Arvada. The rule in the case is specific: it states that the Schey-Putnam duo is responsible for the cart. They lost the hole when McMullen's ball hit it.

Even though McMullen's shot was errant, it meant a win on the hole for him and Bob Reich of the Fox Hill Golf Club in Longmont. It helped the pros in their match against the amateurs. The result was a dead-even decision. It happened on the 14th hole. It was the topic of conversation as the pros won their sixth straight decision against two for the amateurs in singles and two-man, four-ball competition.

IRONICALLY, the rule in question will be changed in 1980, but Sunday it could only be interpreted as it is currently stated.

The amateurs were aghast. However, had Mike Mulhern, playing with amateur Mike Mathies, made a three-foot putt on the 18th hole in the afternoon round, the final team scores would have been reversed.

The deciding points came down to the final match. Bob Haldeen of the Boulder Country Club and Dan Sommers of Glenwood Springs were 1-up on Rick Petri and Randy Fisk going to the 18th tee. They were the final foursome on the course, and the Petri-Fisk duo had a chance to win the 18th.

If they had, the amateurs would have reversed the morning standings, but the Haldeen-Sommers pair held on and halved the hole.

The professionals stepped out to a 8½-

3½ advantage in the morning singles action. The afternoon four-ball play is scored at two points per match. This meant the pros had to win four points in the final six four-ball matches. But state amateur match- and stroke-play champion Chris Nordling and Rick Cramer defeated Dow Finsterwald and Vic Kline 2 and 1 in the afternoon. Steve Jones and Mike Eggeling added to the amateur cause by defeating Ralph Haddad and Fred Wampler 1-up and Les Fowler and Scott Lane outlasted J.D. Taylor and Pat Rea 3 and 2. The amateurs had picked up six points and were back in contention.

THE SCHEY-PUTNAM vs. Reich-McMullen match went on the board as even, the cart decision at the 14th becoming a very pivotal call. It became more significant when Mulhern, with a chance to win, missed his three-footer and that match finished as a draw.

When Petri-Fisk failed to capture the 18th, the action was over. The pros had prevailed.

Amateur captain Fowler, who won his singles match over Taylor, was discouraged.

"I don't like to lose like we did," he said.

The amateurs' only wins came in 1972 and 1976. One session ended in a tie.

"But it was very close. We could have pulled it out," Fowler said. "Any time you come within one point and down to the last match, then anything can happen."

Actually, the amateurs fell behind after the morning singles action when four matches were decided in favor of the pros on a 1-up basis.

Nordling, the top player among the amateurs, ran into a tiger in host pro Finsterwald, who fired a 4-under 32 on the front nine. He made an eagle 3 on the 502-yard, par-5 second hole, where he canned a four-footer.

SUNDAY'S RESULTS

Singles matches — Dow Finsterwald def. Chris Nordling 4 and 3; Vic Kline def. Rick Cramer 1 up; Steve Jones def. Ralph Haddad 2 up; Fred Wampler def. Mike Eggeling 3 and 2; Bob Reich def. Dave Schey 1 up; Mike Putnam def. Paul McMullen 2 and 1; Jim Johnson and Mike Mathies played even; Bob Haldeen def. Rick Petri 6 and 4; Dan Sommers def. Randy Fisk 3 and 2; Les Fowler def. J. D. Taylor 1 up; Pat Rea def. Scott Lane 1 up; Rick Terrell def. Mike Mulhern 4 and 3.

Four-ball matches — Jones-Eggeling def. Haddad-Wampler 1 up; Johnson-Terrell and Mathies-Mulhern played even; Haldeen-Sommers def. Petri-Fisk 1 up; Fowler-Lane def. Taylor-Rea 3 and 2; Nordling-Cramer def. Finsterwald-Kline 2 and 1; Reich-McMullen and Schey-Putnam played even.



PAUL MCMULLEN

Errant shot proved to be helpful.