Enlisted Substitutes Help Foil Golf Pros

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COLORADO SPRINGS — If the amateurs gloated a little Sunday night it was because adversity can be a strong motivating force.

The amateurs, who had not won the Colorado Cup matches since 1976, came back strong in the afternoon four-ball pairings to take a 16-8 decision over the professionals at the South Course of the Broadmoor Golf Club.

And they did it behind two substitutes who were thrown into the breach created when Gregg and Steve Jones were declared ineligible and had to forfeit two of the 12 singles matches played Sunday morning.

Both intend to turn professional and have made entries in the Tournament Players Division qualifying school in October. Steve Jones also has entered pro tournaments in Las Vegas, Nev., and Rapid City, S.D.

Steve Jones defeated pro Jack Sommers 1-up but Gregg Jones had lost to Jim Johnson, 2 and 1, before being disqualified.

Bill Waggoner, president of the Colorado Golf Association, was to become one of the amateur team’s heroes.

In order to complete the matches the CGA had to come up with two more players and Waggoner and Jim Topliff, a Jefferson County school teacher with a 10-handicap who works for the CGA in the summer season, were drafted. They were paired against veteran pros Don Fox of Loveland and Johnson of the Rolling Hills Country Club.

Even with the morning defaults, the strong amateur team drew with the pros and the score was knotted 6-6 going into four-ball action.

Topliff parred the first two holes and then eagled the 502-yard par-5 third and the two draftees went on to play Johnson and Fox even. After their card was posted, Waggoner, 52, and a 5-handicapper at the Denver Country Club, and Topliff, 47, scored the deciding points with their 1-1 split.

Waggoner played with a set of rental clubs. “All I had with me was a golf glove and a pair of shoes,” he grimmed. “With the two Joneses ineligible we had no choice but to play. We tried to contact Warren Simmons at the Air Force Academy but couldn’t locate him.” It wasn’t all that easy for the amateurs. Don Keffer of the Lakewood Country Club, who was subbing for Mike Putnam who is at the University of New Mexico and unable to return for the matches, birdied the last three holes as he and his partner, Jeff Potts, came from 2-down to win 1-up.

Keffer hit a 4-iron a foot from the pin on the par-3 16th, drained a 20-footer for two of his three shots on the par-4 17th and hit the 18th with a drive and a 3-wood where he two-putted for his birdie 4.

“It’s the kind of stuff you dream about,” Keffer said, “2-down and three to go.”

Terry Kahl also played his final round as an amateur Sunday. Unlike Gregg and Steve, he waited until Sunday night to send in his application for the TPD qualifying school. “Yeah, I told my mother not to drop it in the box until after 5:30,” he said.

“What I liked best,” said Waggoner, “is the fact our one point insured we’d win no matter what happened in the other matches.”

“Do you realize this qualifies us for the Colorado Open,” Topliff said of the fact that members of the Colorado Cup teams are exempt from qualifying in that tournament.

Despite the win, which came as the result of strong supporting play by Chris Nordling, Kahl, Keffer, Potts, Tom McGraw and Moore, the pros still lead in the series with 6 wins against 3 losses and 2 ties.

SUNDAY’S RESULTS — Singles: Rick Cramer def. Al Arlach, 7 and 6; Don Fox def. Dave Schey, 2 and 1; Pat Reo def. Dow Finsterwald, 3 and 2; Jim Johnson won by default over Gregg Jones; Jack Sommers won by default over Steve Jones; Jeff Potts def. Ed Nosewicz, 2-up; Don Keffer def. Don Chavez, 5 and 4; Terry Kahl def. Vic Kline, 2 and 1; Chris Nordling def. Ralph Hodddad, 2-up; Tom McGraw def. Tom Bobb, 1-up; Paul McMullen def. Mike Mulhern, 2 and 1; Bill Ramsey def. Ron Moore, 3 and 2.

Four-ball: Kahl-Schey def. Sommers-Kline, 4 and 3; Nordling-McGraw def. Hodddad-Ramsey, 4 and 3; Keffer-Potts def. Chavez-Nosewicz, 1 up; Topliff-Waggoner, Johnson-Fox, even; Finsterwald-Cramer, Real-Arlach, even; McGraw-Mulhern def. Bobb-McMullen, 2 and 1.