

Playoff Decides Crown

By JOHN LA PORTE
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Luke Maten and Brooks Callahan squared off in a classic playoff to decide the overall boys' title in the Colorado Golf Association's state junior stroke championship Thursday in Fort Morgan.

After three rounds in as many days, the two, forming half of the foursome with the leading scores, came down the 18th fairway in a deadlock, and both parred the hole, forcing a playoff as they tied at 226 for the 52 holes of regulation play.

Maten birdied the first hole, and the Littleton golfer had his second consecutive title.

Callahan, from Englewood, gave the defending champion a strong battle for the title, and Matt Potter of Lakewood posted the only par round of the day at 73 to finish third, a single stroke behind the playoff pair.

Callahan barely missed a birdie putt before Maten, who hits right-handed but putts left-handed, stroked in his bird.

Both golfers hit drives close to the green on the first hole. Callahan, who was away, chipped up first and just missed the flag, leaving a difficult downhill putt with the greens running fast. Maten's chip left him a short uphill putt.

As Callahan lined up his putt and repaired a ball mark in the path of the shot, someone in the gallery made a remark about his preparation. Callahan looked at the gallery, smiled and predicted, "This one's going in, baby."

He was very nearly right. The ball hit the right-hand edge of the cup as it rolled past. Maten stepped in, stroked in his short birdie putt and raised his hands in triumph. The two then shook hands and walked back up the fairway for trophy presentations.

Maten posted an 81 and Callahan 80 Thursday in regulation with Maten fading from a four-stroke lead at the 10th hole with a bogey and triple bogey in the final eight holes before recovering on the first playoff hole.

The girls' title did not have nearly as much suspense — Longmont's Gailynn Addis walked away from the field,



Off Into Sunset

State junior stroke play goes off into the sunset with Thursday's concluding round with Vince Alberta of Fort Morgan hitting a fairway wood at left and playoff participants Brooks Callahan and Luke Maten at right. Maten, far right,

is accepting congratulations from Callahan after holing a birdie putt on the first extra hole to win the overall boys' title.

(Times Photos By John La Porte)

carding a 239 total that was 13 strokes ahead of the nearest competitor.

Besides the overall title, Maten won the boys' 17-18 age group title.

Doug Wherry of Englewood took the boys' 15-16 title at 235, Mike Potter of Lakewood the boys' 13-14 crown at 247, with the boys' nine-hole 12 and under bracket divided on the last day into

three groups, Pat Wedeking of Parker winning 12-year-olds at 127, Duke Zwemke of Arvada 11-year-olds at 116 and Greg Shakespeare of Littleton the only 10-year-old, in at 127.

In the girls' divisions, Sarah Zwemke of Arvada won the 17-18 age group at 252, Addis the 15-16 group at 239, Missy Burley of Akron 13-14 at 263, Terri Marranzino of Broomfield girls' 13 nine-holers at 147 and Gretchen Pott-hoff of Denver girls' 12 and under nine-holers at 148.

Several locals finished among the prize winners with up to five top placers in each flight to receive plaques.

David Altenbern was tied for fifth overall and in the 17-18 boys' group at 231. He also provided local fans with a thrilling chip shot that found the hole for an eagle two on the ninth hole Thursday.

In boys' 13-14, Mark McGraw was fourth at 258 and Lance Price fifth at 261.

In the boys' 11-year-old group, Jim Renshaw was second at 125 and Scott Yenne fourth at 135.

The only local girls' entry, Veronica McFadden, was fifth in the girls' 13-14 group at 308.

Other locals competing were: Vince Alberta, boys' 17-18, 259; Paul Holloway, boys' 15-16, 251; Brian Teeters, boys' 15-16, 281, and Neil Schoemaker, boys' 13-14, 281.

"I think the course surprised some of the kids," said Dave Askins, executive director of the Colorado Golf Association, after presenting Maten with the winner's cup. "I think they

thought they'd come up here and eat it alive."

Askins said he was pleasantly surprised by the course and would like to bring the event back to Fort Morgan in a couple of years.

The surprise may have been a little less pleasant for some of the competitors — although Fort Morgan is a fairly short course, noted local pro Johnny Miles, it plays like a longer course because of its small greens. Also, the greens were mowed short, creating a fast surface that made it tough to get "bite" on chip shots and wreaked havoc with putting. In fact, putting was the problem that kept local Altenbern off the leaders' pace.

For the entire tournament, there was one round below 70, Maten's first-day 69. That was one of only three sub-par rounds posted for the entire three-day tournament, all of them the first day. Six rounds matched par with only one of them posted the final day.