

DUMPS DEFENDING CHAMPION**Eaton Takes State Senior Title****RALPH MOORE**

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Another of the Eaton clan jumped into the golf scene Friday when Robert L., better known as Larry Eaton, nudged State Sen. Les Fowler of Boulder for the state senior stroke-play championship at The Pinery Country Club.

Fowler, a three-time winner of both senior-stroke and match-play tournaments, was the defending champion and lost by one stroke 217-218 to Eaton over the 54-hole test.

They were cart mates all three days. They have known each other since 1948 when Fowler, fresh out of the navy and the University of Colorado golf coach, tried to recruit Larry out of Greeley High School.

Eaton, instead, went to Notre Dame, where he played his varsity golf. Later, in 1964, Eaton was one of Fowler's campaign managers. It was the *only* election Fowler has lost in his political career.

EATON WON the seniors as a rookie. The Greeley auto agency owner just turned 50 and he made his debut with a 68 Wednesday in one of the worst windstorms of the season. Thursday, in perfect weather, he jumped to a 76, but still held a two-shot lead over Fowler going into Friday's finale.

Neither let a long friendship get in their way. Fowler caught up with birdies on the first two holes. However, at the end of nine, Eaton had a five-shot advantage, turning the front nine in 32 with birdies at the third, fourth, seventh and eighth holes. Fowler was 1-under 35.

Confessing to his inconsistency, Eaton underscored his nines of 32, 33 and 35, and then pointed out his two nines over 40, including his 41 Friday as Fowler rallied and had Eaton by the throat at one point only to let him slip away.

The faulty noose measured eight

feet, eight inches, the total distance of three putts Fowler faulted on through holes 14 (two feet), 15 (five feet) and at the 16 where the local solon missed the cup from 20 inches.

"THE GOD of putting deserted me," Fowler sighed. "My putting beat me today. Those two little ones stand out," he admitted. "They break your back."

"And they gave me a little breathing room," Eaton interjected. "You hit the good wedges and came up empty."

Fowler three-putted for a double bogey at the ninth and that brought about a failing confidence in a putter that has been his best weapon through the years.

Eaton opened the door with his first bogey of the day at the par-3 10th and then double bogeyed the par-4 12th where he drove next to a pine tree and broke his 3-iron hitting out.

"IT WAS the one disposable club I had in the bag," he admitted. "I hate that club anyway. But it was a stupid thing to do. I didn't even make it to the green."

Fowler was also in trouble, but salvaged a bogey 5 to cut Eaton's lead to three and then he got it down to two with a birdie on a great wedge chip inside the gimmie range on the par-5 13th.

Then Fowler's blade went awry. He missed a chance to save par at the 14th, failed on a birdie bid at the 15th and then let Eaton get back to a four-shot lead when he missed the hole on a near-tapin at the par-3 16th.

"I moved on both the short putts," Fowler admitted. "It was a long session," he said of the recent legislative gathering. "I didn't have enough time to practice."

EATON'S FATHER, Rex Eaton, was the state match-play champion in 1938 and perennial men's champion at the Denver Country Club. Kim, Lar-

ry's niece, won the women's stroke-play titles in 1978 and 1979. She attends the University of New Mexico on a golf grant-in-aid and will try the women's mini-tour next fall.

"I enjoy it in the seniors," Eaton said Friday, "But I hope I don't have to play Fowler every time. I was just sleep walking yesterday when I shot that 76 and I got careless and made some mental errors today."

He had a four-shot lead on Fowler going into the 17th and 18th holes, but three-putted the par-4 17th and chipped it in a sand bunker on the 18th for a bogey while Fowler came back to birdie, the putt doing a 180 degree turn on the lip of the cup before falling in.

The god of putting returned too late to help Fowler.

FINAL RESULTS

50-59 Age Group — Larry Eaton, Greeley CC, 217; Les Fowler, Boulder CC, 218; Bob Bruner, Colorado Springs CC, 225; Ken Sorenson, Los Verdes GC, 226; Bill Waggoner, Denver CC, 227; Charles Bristow, The Pinery CC, 229; Dan Hogan, City Park GC, 229; Gil Gallegos, The Pinery CC, 230; Jim English, J.F. Kennedy GC, 231.

Low Net — Harold Koster, Meadow Hills GC, 185; Vince Enkler, Eisenhower GC, 200; Larry Biernbaum, Meadow Hills GC, 202; Bob Karlin, Pinehurst CC, 204; Charles Stevens, The Pinery CC, 205; Jim Gwinn, Eisenhower GC, 206; Oscar Weible, Eisenhower GC, 206; Bob Roberts, Los Verdes GC, 207; Wayne Smith, Wellshire GC, 208.

60-64 Age Group — Cliff Boyd, Fitzsimmons GC, 232; Hal Ruth, The Pinery CC, 234; Jim Buckner, Overland Park GC, 235; H.B. Bolas, Columbine CC, 238; Myron Hoffman, Fitzsimmons GC, 241; Henry Deutschendorf, Fitzsimmons GC, 242; William Milne, Valley CC, 245.

Low Net — Walter Conn, Inverness GC, 188; Dick Ralfer, Wellshire GC, 197; Frank Scherer, Meadow Hills GC, 207; Charles Towner, Colorado Springs CC, 207; A.H. Owen, Cherry Hills CC, 212; James Forbes, Fitzsimmons GC, 213; Luke Zell, Puffy Jewett GC, 215.

65-69 Age Group — Ernie Niederhut, Willis Case GC, 235; Dick Zellner, The Pinery CC, 236; Jere Honnecke, Overland Park GC, 238; Ray Browning, City Park GC, 242; George Attridge, Fitzsimmons GC, 251.

Low Net — Olyn Hicks, Aurora Hills GC, 200; Bart Pasqua, Pinehurst CC, 206; Clifton Bloom, Aurora Hills GC, 208; Russell Norum, Lake Arbor GC, 211; Harold Swigart, Fitzsimmons GC, 212.

70-and-Over Age Group — Jim Kirkley, Colorado Springs CC, 244; Charles Hammond, Eisenhower GC, 249; O. Russell Olson, Applewood GC, 252.

Low Net — William Turnbull, Collindale GC, 196; Harold Garman, Pueblo City Park GC, 208; Ora Schreiner, Perry Park CC, 217.



Denver Post Photo by John Prieto

THE LOOK OF A WINNER

Larry Eaton watches chip shot get close on seventh hole in seniors play.