

Eaton Declared Seniors Winner

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In 1949 Larry Eaton won the Colorado prep individual golf title while attending Greeley High School.

Friday that same Larry Eaton of the Greeley Country Club successfully defended his Colorado Senior Men's Stroke Play championship without picking up a golf club.

Heavy rain washed out final-round action at The Pinery Country Club and Eaton, who won both the stroke and match play tournaments last year, was declared the winner on the basis of his 1-under-par 143 through 36 holes Thursday.

Later Friday, Lee J. Guittar, publisher of The Denver Post, extended Eaton an exemption to participate in the 72-hole division of the \$150,000 Denver Post Champions of Golf tournament Aug. 12-15 at the Pinehurst Country Club.

As sponsors of the Senior Tour event, the Post has a total of five exemptions to grant players who have reached their 50th birthdays.

"Recognizing the tremendous support that amateur golfers give to golf in Colorado, it is a pleasure for me to grant the exemption to Larry Eaton," Guittar said. "We just want to share with them in the growth and development of golf in this area."

Eaton was named the state's outstanding amateur senior by the Colorado Golf Association and the Colorado Section of the PGA for

his sweep of both major titles in 1981.

About two hours of play were left at the Pinery Friday before the golf course was declared unplayable due to incessant rain. The leaders, Eaton, Ed Nosewicz and Les Fowler never made it to the first tee.

Nosewicz finished second overall and first in his age bracket (55-59) with his par 144. Fowler, the first-round leader, was third at 145.

It marked the first time the senior tournament has not gone the full route. Inclement weather, however, has hampered championship golf play in Colorado the past two seasons.

The Coors Colorado Open was trimmed to 54 holes two of the last three years, the 1981 event hampered by heavy hail. Last year's state stroke play championship at the Country Club of Colorado was delayed frequently by rain and lightning.

The U.S. Open qualifying events, held at the Valley Country Club last year and the Fox Hill Country Club last May, were completed but played in extreme cold and wet weather.

The 1981 Colorado Cup matches were also postponed when rain and hail hit the South Course of the Broadmoor Golf Club.

"Hopefully this is not an indication of the kind of weather we are going to have this season," CGA official Jim Topliff said Friday, "but it is the first time we've had to cut play short for the seniors."