

Mertz curbs temper, wins state Publinx title

By **CLAY LATIMER**

Rocky Mountain News Staff Writer

6/27

BOULDER — Guy Mertz sank a 30-foot birdie putt on the final hole yesterday to win the Colorado Public Links Championship.

But the 29-year-old dentist didn't attribute his one-shot victory over Michael Glaesel to that putt or other timely shots at Lake Valley Golf Course.

"Three weeks ago, I lost my temper in a tournament in Greeley. Suddenly, one bogey led to another. I've got enough stress in my life, so I said, 'Change or quit.' I changed my attitude, and that made the difference today," said Mertz, who finished with a 1-under 69 and a 54-hole 1-under total of 209.

Glaesel, a University of Colorado junior, shot 69 yesterday for a second-place total of 210. Defending champion Tom McGraw shot 71 to finish third at 215.

Mertz's good fortune didn't end there. The final two rounds of the state championship also counted as qualifying for the national public links championship. Mertz and Glaesel tied for first with 137s. Chuck Melvin of Lake Valley was third with a 2-over 142.

They all qualified for the national championships July 11-16 in Jackson, Wyo.

Mertz led by three shots after 11 holes. But he bogeyed Nos. 12 and 13 and Glaesel birdied No. 14. They were even heading to No. 15 tee.

"It was falling apart on me," said Mertz, a Longmont resident. "But I knew I was trying my hardest. So why get mad?"

Instead, the Minnesota native got even on No. 18. After his tee shot landed in the left

RESULTS

COLORADO PUBLIC LINKS CHAMPIONSHIP

Guy Mertz	72-68-69	— 209
Michael Glaesel	73-68-69	— 210
Tom McGraw	70-74-71	— 215
Rick Petri	72-75-70	— 217
Gary Kephart	71-74-73	— 218
Chuck Melvin	76-71-71	— 218
Mark Franz	71-73-74	— 218
Don Orrell	71-76-72	— 219
Rick DeWitt	71-75-73	— 219

NATIONAL QUALIFYING

Guy Mertz	68-69	— 137
Michael Glaesel	68-69	— 137
Chuck Melvin	71-71	— 142
Jerry Hall (first alternate)	75-69	— 144
Tom McGraw (second alternate)	74-71	— 145
Rick Petri (third alternate)	75-70	— 145
D.A. Miller (fourth alternate)	70-75	— 145

rough, Mertz's second shot landed well short of his desired destination.

"I had a pretty bad lie," he said.

Glaesel, a member of CU's golf team, hit a fine drive, and hit a sand wedge to land the ball to the right of the pin, where he had an uphill 15-foot birdie putt.

Glaesel seemed in command. But Mertz was relaxed when he stroked his winning putt, which broke nearly four feet.

"I knew when I hit it I had a chance," said Mertz, who was a high school All-American in Rochester, Minn.

Mertz's putt jolted Glaesel, who needed to sink his putt to force a playoff.

"I felt I was in good position on No. 17 and 18. I thought I had makeable putts. (On 18) I just pushed it. I was kind of in shock," said the ex-Pomona High School golfer.

A year ago, Mertz made the cut but lost in the first round at the national public links tournament. He figures he can do better this year.

"I think golf is 100% mental," he said.