



Denver Post Photo by Ernie Leyba

PRECISION SHOTS LIKE THIS EARN LES FOWLER GOLF TITLES

# Fowler's Precision Earns Senior Title

By RALPH MOORE

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Les Fowler should have been a brain surgeon.

The 55-year-old Republican state senator from Boulder continued to play with precision and finesse Saturday as he eased by "rookie" Ray White to claim his third Colorado State Senior match play championship at the Fitzsimons Golf Club.

"I'd say my handicap caught up with me today," mused White after he went down 6 and 5 in the 18-hole finale. "I could only scramble so long and it wasn't there today. I'm going to have to play in more of these things — it's a different feeling."

White had used a strong chipping and putting game in getting past defending champion Ed Nosewicz 1 up in 20 holes and two-time senior match play champion Homer Dunn 1 up.

## The Championship Card

PAR OUT — 444 453 453—36  
 White Out — 456 563 553—42  
 Fowler Out — 454 453 453—37 (leads 4 up)  
 PAR IN — 434—434—445—35-36—71  
 White In — 434 4  
 Fowler In — 333 4 (wins 6 and 5).

..BUT SATURDAY he three-putted three of the first five holes and was four down at the turn. He didn't win a hole against the veteran Fowler, who was busy winning his third senior championship in the last six years.

"Hey, I'm just an 11-handicapper from the Eisenhower (Golf Club) at the Air Force Academy," White said, "and I played like that today."

Fowler played his first competitive tournament in Colorado in 1946 and defeated Jack Sterling, now an official on the PGA tour, to win the Boulder Country Club championship.

He is the defending state seniors stroke play champion and previously won the senior match crowns in 1974 and 1975.

Nosewicz, who had won the senior match in 1977 and 1978, won the consolation crown for the second time Saturday, defeating Charles Hammond, also of the Eisenhower club, 5 and 4.

"I'VE PLAYED in four seniors now," he said, "and won the trophy twice and the consolation flight twice."

White was playing in his first match play tournament at the age of 50, the minimum age for senior events sponsored by the Colorado Golf Association.

Fowler's experience showed through the final, which was delayed frequently by as much as 20 minutes between holes due to slow play.

"I'll admit it bothered me to wait that long between holes," White said.

Fowler, a member of the CGA's board of directors, also was peeved but he didn't allow the delay to bother his game.

HIS EXACT timing and style of play showed him hitting all but two greens (one he missed by a foot) and, in 13 holes, he missed only one fairway.

After White's "nervous start," Fowler took over and clinched the trophy with three straight 3s on the backside, his birdies at the 10th and 12th holes coming on putts of 22 and 21 feet.

White scrambled out of a bunker for a "gimmie" par on the 10th and he hit the pin from the sand on the 12th to save his pars, but both shots went for naught as Fowler won both holes with his calm, deliberate putting stroke.

"I finally started to chip on these holes," White offered, "but you're knocking in putts for 3s. I learned a lot in my first tournament, I'm going to do it more often."

FOWLER'S ONLY comment was:

"All I play anymore is competitive golf," and let it go at that.

Bill McCool, a former World War II fighter pilot, eagled the 362-yard, par-4 13th in his match with Lyle Scott in the second flight. McCool hit a 7-iron 140 yards into the cup on the roll.

"I'd normally use on 8," he said of the feat, "but I'm not hitting the ball like I used to." Scott won the match 4 and 2.

## SATURDAY'S RESULTS

Championship Flight — Les Fowler def. Ray White 6 and 5. Consolation Flight — Ed Nosewicz def. Charles Hammond 5 and 4. Second Flight — Lyle Scott def. Bill McCool 4 and 2. Third Flight — John Farro def. John Fulham 3 and 2. Fourth Flight — Bart Pasqua def. Rex Stubblefield 1 up 20 holes. Fifth Flight — Olyn Hicks def. Bill Lewis 3 and 2. 70 and Over — Harry Wrenn def. Clinton Lyter 3 and 2.