Fowler’s Precision Earns Senior Title

By RALPH MOORE
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Les Fowler should have been a brain surgeon.

The 75-year-old Republican state senator from Boulder continued to play with precision and finesse Saturday as he edged out "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," quipped 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."

While White had used a strong chipping and putting game in getting past defending champion Ed Newville 1 up in 36 holes and two-time senior match play champion Eugene Dunn 2 up.

The Championship Card

PARK CROY - 397 739 739 739 739 
LON CARR - 739 739 739 739 739 
BARRETT MURPHY - 739 739 739 739 739 
WHITE - 739 739 739 739 739 
SAKAMOTO - 739 739 739 739 739 
KITTLE - 739 739 739 739 739 
FOWLER - 739 739 739 739 739

BUT SATURDAY was 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 kept in line by his third senior championship in the last six years.

"I wasn’t able to hit a 1-handicap from the Eisenhower (Golf Club) at the Air Force Academy," White said. "I played like I did today."

Fowler played his first competitive tournament in his career of 18 holes, and faced Jack Sterling, now an official at the tour, to win the Boulder-Estonia Club championship.

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

Newville, who had won the senior match in 1977 and 1981, won the consolation crown for the second time Saturday, defeating Charles Hammond, also of the Eisenhower club, 3 and 2.

"I’ve played in four seniors now," White said, "and won the trophy twice and the consolation flight twice."

White was playing in his first match play tournament at the age of 59,

For White, a member of the CGA’s board of directors, also was pleased but he didn’t allow the delay to bother his game.

"I’m sorry to see you playing here," White said.

"I admit I was a little bit upset last night two times between holes at 16 and 18 feet."

White scrambled out of a bunker for a "gimme" par on the 16th and he hit the putt from the sand on the 18th to save his par, but both shots went for naught as Fowler won both holes with his calm, deliberate putting stroke.

"I finally started to chip on those holes," White said.

"I think I’m a little bit of a brain surgeon," White said. 

"It’s been a tough course, but I’m not hitting the ball like I used to," White said.

SATURDAY’S RESULTS

(Final scores for 36 holes of stroke play)

PARK CROY - 739 739 739 739 739 
LON CARR - 739 739 739 739 739 
BARRETT MURPHY - 739 739 739 739 739 
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FOWLER - 739 739 739 739 739 

"All I play anymore is competitive golf," White said."

Bill McCord, a former World War II fighter pilot and captain the 30-yard, par 4 third in his match with Lloyd Stroot in the second flight. McCord hit a 130-yard yarders onto the cap on the roll.

"I don’t normally use a 1," he said of the foot. "But I’m not hitting this ball like I used to," White said.