

# Blistering first round gives oil executive Match Play title

By ED MATE

Special to the Rocky Mountain News

AURORA — Kent Moore of Cherry Hills Country Club defeated Jeff Salter of The Ranch Country Club 9 and 8 yesterday to win the Colorado Golf Association Match Play championship at Valley Country Club.

Moore, the 1986 Colorado Stroke Play champion and 1973 junior Match Play champion, fired a 2-under-par 70 to jump to a 6-up lead after the first round of the 36-hole final.

Moore stretched his lead by winning the first two holes of the afternoon match. Salter came back with a birdie to take the sixth hole, but Moore put the match out of reach by winning the next two holes with pars and halving and Nos. 9 and 10.

Moore trailed only once during the match. "On the first green, I three-putted from about 8 feet," Moore said. "I was a bit nervous."

But Moore came back to win the third, fourth and fifth holes to take a 2-up lead. The match was never closer afterward.

Moore won the 10th with a birdie and coasted by winning the 12th, 13th, 17th and 18th with pars while losing only one hole on the back nine.

"It sure makes it easier when you have a lead like that," said Moore, an oil company executive.

"He played well and really deserved to win," said Salter, 29, who moved to Colorado in 1985 from Southern California. "I just wasn't making any putts today."

Salter acknowledged he tried to get back in the match by starting the afternoon round aggressively. "I thought I could get back into the match, and I really gave my birdie putt (at the first hole) a run," he said.

"I hit it 4 feet by the hole and missed it coming back."

Salter charged back at the 405-yard par-4 second by lacing a second shot within 8 feet of the hole. But Moore, who struggled with an erratic driver all day, played his second shot out of the rough and left himself a 40-foot downhill putt.

"I was just trying to get the putt close and not three-putt," Moore said. Moore did more than get it close. He rolled in the long birdie attempt, and Salter was unable to convert his 8-footer.

A birdie by Salter at the sixth, a 197-yard par-3, kept him within reach. But his bogey at the seventh



LISA GRIFFIN / Special to the Rocky Mountain News  
Kent Moore, watching a putt during yesterday's final round, was 6-up after 18 holes.

and double-bogey at the eighth allowed Moore to go 9-up with only 10 holes remaining.

"It really is quite an honor to put my name on this trophy with such great players as Hale Irwin, Ron Moore and Brandt Jobe," said Moore, 33. "This win is very special."

Both Moore and Salter will be playing in the Colorado Golf Association Stroke-Play Championship at The Ranch Country Club on Aug. 10-13.

In the President's Flight, Bill Fowler of Rolling Hills Country Club defeated University of Colorado golfer Charlie Luther 2 and 1.