

Golden silences Welz's attempt

By Tom Kensler

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Bert Welz was looking for an opening but found only Golden opportunities yesterday.

John Golden, getting up and down from off the green during a Seve Ballesteros-like stretch of six holes, ended Welz's three-year reign in the Colorado Golf Association Senior Match Play Championship.

Golden, 51, defeated Welz 4 and 2 in the championship match at Eagle Golf Club in Broomfield.

Welz, 55, was thwarted in his bid to become the first four-time champion of the event. Golden had 11 one-putt greens among the 16 holes of the championship match, including up-and-downs on Nos. 9 through 14. He registered five birdies against one bogey before claiming the victory when Welz three-putted No. 16.

Welz, a member of Columbine Country Club, didn't play poorly.

But Golden was spectacular, especially in scrambling from trouble. Golden drained a 12-footer to save par and halve No. 10 after hitting a tree with his second shot. He dropped a 20-footer on No. 11 to halve that hole after leaving his approach shot 25 yards short of the green.

"When he made the putts on numbers 10 and 11, it took something out of me. I couldn't think after that," said Welz, a general contractor who last year became the first to win this event three times in a row. "I played a miracle man today."

Golden, a financial planner, won the consolation title of the championship flight last year in his first try. A member of Bear Creek Golf Club, where he plays to a 1-handicap, Golden is a former five-time club champion at Hiwan Golf Club.

He had never before won a state championship.

"The short game is my strength,

CGA SENIOR MATCH PLAY

At Eagle GC

Championship Flight

Semifinals: John Golden def. Chuck Goudey 2-up; Bert Welz def. Warren Simmons 3 and 2.

Championship: Golden def. Welz 4 and 2.

A flight-handicap: Buzz Bolas def. Richard Kern 2 and 1.

B flight: Gordon Richards def. John Kelly 2 and 1.

B flight-handicap: Paul Nehf def. Rod Ham 3 and 2.

C flight: Bob Campiglia def. David Barnes 4 and 3.

anyway, and the golf gods were with me," Golden said. "But I didn't think I had it won until Bert told me to pick up and said, 'Congratulations' on No. 16. He's won it three times, so I knew he could do it again."

Golden reached the championship match yesterday by defeating Chuck Goudey 2-up in a morning semifinal match. Welz eliminated Warren Simmons 3 and 2 in yesterday's other semifinal.

The tournament was open to the state's amateur male golfers, ages 50 years and older as of Monday. It was the first CGA championship of the year.



John Golden