Barker repeats Dad’s feat: wins GCSAA championship

BY PETER BLAIS

MONTEREY, Calif. — "Just play good," was the advice Vaughn Barker offered his son, Todd, prior to the 1995 Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Golf Championship held recently here.

The younger Barker had reason to listen to his father, who won the annual event when it was played here in 1977. And he listened well.

The head superintendent at Fore Lakes Golf Course (GC) in Taylorsville, Utah, Todd put together a two-day total of 144 over the Bayonet and Poppy Hills golf courses to win the overall championship by a resounding seven strokes over his nearest competitor, Paul Jett of Duke University Golf Course in Durham, N.C.

"I was only two shots ahead after the first day," recalled Barker, who used his 3-wood off the tee over the right Bayonet course to fashion a two-under 70 on the opening day. "Paul shot a 72, but had some problems the second day on the first few holes at Poppy Hills. I just played very steady after that and ended up with a 74 at Poppy Hills."

Barker, a top amateur in Utah, was one of 400 members and affiliates in 11 flights competing in the warm-up event to the annual International Golf Course Conference and Show held two hours north in San Francisco. The Golf Club at Quail Lodge, Old Del Monte Forest GC and Rancho Canada GC’s West Course were the other tourney locales.

Barker was also part of a Utah team that captured third place in the Chapter Team Gross competition behind Jeff’s Carolinas A team. Joining Jett on the winning team were Andy Campbell of Brook Valley Country Club (CC) in Greenville, N.C.; Chuck Green of Florence (S.C.) CC; and Chandler Masters of Talamore at Pinehurst in Southern Pines, N.C.

Winning the Lamphier Trophy as net team champion was Midwest AGCS No. 4 which included four Illinois superintendents: Alan Fierst of Oak Park CC in Elmhurst Park; Robert Maihous of Hinsdale Golf Course (GC); John Stephenson of Potalong County Club; and Roger Stewart Jr. of Stonebridge CC in Naperville.

The winners in the other divisions listed first and net second were:

• Division B (5.0-5.7 handicap)—Dennis Helm, Renton Washington, Fairwood CC; Dennis Vogt, Cherry Hills, Colo., Glenmoor CC.

• 1st Flight (5.8-7.8) — Scott Wagner, Silver Springs, Md.; Leisure World; Fritz McMullen West Bloomfield, Mich., Forest Lake CC.

• 2nd Flight (7.9-10.1) — Sean Remington, Chevy Chase, Md., Chevy Chase Club; Ed Cimock Jr., Mount Cobb, Pa., Scranton Municipal CC.

• 3rd Flight (10.2-12.7) — Paul Jorging, Belchertown, Mass., The Orchards by Lathem, Allen, Texas, Eldorado CC.

• 4th Flight (12.8-16.5) — Dennis Flynn, Kalamazoo, N.Y., Bag Barn CC; Tim Powers, Pound Ridge, N.Y., Pound Ridge CC.

• 5th Flight (16.6-22) — Ron Garrison, Center Valley, Pa., The Center Valley Club; R. Scott Woodhead, Belgrate, Monda, Valley View GC.

• 6th Flight (22.1-29.8) — Roger Stewart Jr., Trevor Ostoby, Vienna, Austria, Colony Club.

• Senior I (age 50-56) — Alan Andreasen, Mission Viejo, Calif.; El Niguel CC; Mike Bavier, Palatine, Ill., Inverness CC.

• Senior II (age 57-64) — William Johnson, Plymouth Meeting, Edin CC; Ken Goodman, Wheeling Ill., Bull Valley GC.

• Super Senior (age 65+) — Clete Idoux, Granite City, Ill., retired; John Grant, San Koafoe, Calif.; San Mateo GC.

• Affiliates — Dave Bingham, Texas A & M B & M Associates; Jim Davis, San Diego, Ecosoil.

Maintenance complex

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Chances of injury.

Little dirt comes into the maintenance buildings because native vegetation is planted around the complex. This cost a little more up front, but no resources are used to maintain it — no water, no electricity, no fertilizer, pesticides, labor or fuel.

People say native plantings don’t work. The reason they believe this is that they haven’t done the right thing. You have to pick the right plant at the right location, at the right time of year, at the right planting density, at the size, and then maintain it until it’s established.

Likewise, wildflowers do work. But you have to pick your spots, till the bed properly, pick the right flower and stay on top of them. They make a great habitat and save a lot of money in maintenance.

A sort barrier of native plants encircles the entire maintenance building. Instead of concrete posts stationed to protect plantings and buildings, use PVC, so the vehicle is not damaged.

Birdhouses made out of discarded PVC pipe.