

FLORIDA GOLF TEAM REPEATS AS NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

One of the most difficult things to do in any sport, at any level of competition, is for a defending champion to successfully retain the title. The Florida GCSA golf team did just that as they again won the GCSAA national team championship. Since the two day event was held at Disney World, Orlando, we were also the tournament host.

It was the third straight tournament in which a team from Florida came away with top honors. The 1980 champs were the Florida West Coast chapter. This year's foursome won their place on the team in three regional qualifying tournaments, and their names will be engraved on an antique silver trophy donated by the Scottish Golf Greenskeepers Association in 1972. The chapter championship, in which teams combine their three best scores, have been a GCSAA tradition since 1946. The winning team consisted of Bill Whitaker, CGCS, Palm Beach chapter; Ron Hill, CGCS, North Florida chapter; Fred Klauk, Palm Beach chapter; and Dan Meyers, CGCS, West Coast chapter.

Bill Whitaker was the first day tournament leader as his 71 paced the team to a six-stroke lead. The second day scores of Ron Hill and Fred Klauk with 74's and Dan Meyers 76 enabled the team to win by eight strokes over runnerup

Carolina GCSA. The third place honors went to the local Central Florida chapter. Their team consisted of Joe Ondo, Dennis Parker, and Jim Ellison who fired a 71 on the closing day.

In the net handicap division Palm Beach chapter placed second. They lost to the New Jersey GCSA because the Palm Beachers had to give away 52 strokes per day! The Palm Beach team consisted of Kevin Downing, Jack Cunningham, Mark Henderson, and Jim Watson.

Individual honors were won by Mike Apodaca, Horizon Country Club, Belen, New Mexico. His great second round of 69 left the runnerup six strokes back, and our own Ron Hill seven off the pace. Apodaca, who had been among the top finishers in the past four GCSAA tournaments, finally claimed the top prize, a silver replica of the U.S. Open Championship Cup donated in 1954 by the USGA.

Next year the tournament will be held in North Carolina during February. We will be back to defend our two consecutive titles. But if the 14th club in the bag needs to be a snow shovel we may not be the pretournament favorite. ■



Fred Klauk fired a solid 74 on the final day.



Dan Meyers carded a pair of 76's to aid team.



Lefty Bill Whitaker posted a first day 71 for medalist honors.



Ron Hill carded 74-74, placing him third in a field of 270 players.



Individual tourney winner Mike Apodaca coasted to victory with final round 69.



Ron Hill drew the attention of GCSAA headquarter staffers Diana Green and Larry Goldsmith.



Jim Ellison had the hottest putter on the final day. His 71 paced the Central Florida chapter to third place.



Fred Klauk used high finish and so did the team!

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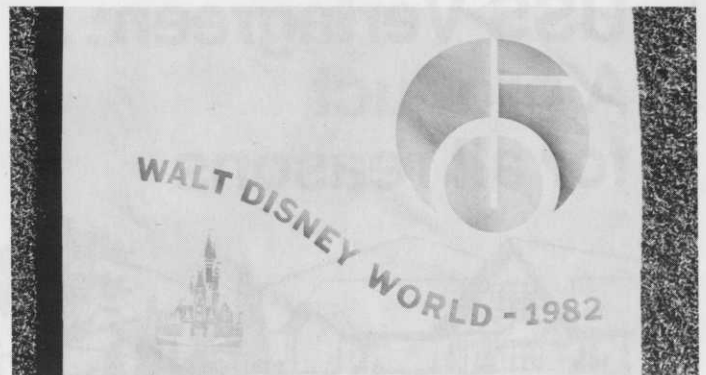
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