



61st INTERNATIONAL
GOLF COURSE CONFERENCE & SHOW
FEBRUARY 19-26, 1990

Members of the FGCSA's golf team get their sticks together before a practice round at Hunters Creek GC in Orlando. From left, Buck Bucker, Joe Ondo, Dave Oliver and Fred Klauk.



FGCSA's best players to face 600 challengers

Three national tournament veterans, including a former champion, and one rookie will lead 20 Florida superintendents against 580 out-of-state challengers in the 40th GCSAA Golf Championship Feb. 19-20.

The tournament, begun in 1938 and held annually since 1968, is the first event of the eight-day International Golf Course Conference and Show.

As host chapter, Florida will have five foursomes vying for the team title that has never come to the Sunshine

State, but this may be the year.

The Floridians are led by former GCSAA national champion David Oliver, now superintendent at Martin Downs in Stuart, who won the 1986 individual title at Palm Desert in California.

"Without a doubt, it was the biggest thrill of my golfing career," says the 34-year-old Oliver, who grew up on Forest Lakes GC in Sarasota.

The former University of Florida intramural champion will have an edge in his quest to win a second national

title and to stop Dave Powell, superintendent at Myers point CC in Charlotte, N.C., from winning his fourth championship in five years: one of the two courses used for the championship flight in the 36-hole event will be the New Course at Grand Cypress Resort.

Buck Bucker

Superintendent
Orange Tree GC
Orlando

Handicap: 3

Basis: 1989 Poa Annua
Classic champion

GCSAA Experience: First year

Major titles: Runner-up, 1989 National
Lefthander Championship

Strength: Irons

Weakness: Driving accuracy

Biggest thrill in golf: Shot 3 under par over
last two days in National Lefty



Joe Ondo, CGCS

Superintendent
Winter Plines GC
Winter Park

Handicap: 3

Basis: First alternate (Low
Average)

GCSAA Experience: 7 tournaments

Major titles: Florida Publinx, Crowfoot Open (2),
Poa Annua Classic

Strength: Ability to keep the ball in play; can
adapt game to "whatever is working today"

Weakness: Long irons

Biggest thrill in golf: Florida Publinx title



Dave Oliver

Superintendent
Martin Downs G&CC
Stuart

Handicap: 2-3

Basis: Crowfoot Open
Champion

GCSAA Experience: 5 tournaments, won
championship in 1986

Major titles: Universtiy of Florida Intramural
championship; Poa Annua Classic, FTGA
Research Tournament (2)

Strength: Getting it up and down

Weakness: Driving accuracy

Biggest thrill in golf: 1986 GCSAA champion





RUMMELL WAGNER

Oliver qualified for Florida's "A Team" (whose entry fees are paid by the state organization) by winning the Crowfoot Open over the same Jack Nicklaus layout... in the middle of the summer.

Other members of the first team

Fred Klauk

Superintendent
TPC at Sawgrass
Ponte Vedra Beach

Handicap: 4

Basis: Low Average

GCSAA Experience: 6
tournaments

Major titles: Crowfoot Open, FTGA Research
Tournament, Runner-up, Palm Beach
County amateur

Strength: Middle irons, putting

Weakness: Driving

Biggest thrill in golf: Second place in the
Palm Beach County Amateur against most
of the best players in the state



New Course

Grand Cypress Resort

Architect: Jack Nicklaus

Date Opened: 1988

Length: 6773-5314 yards

USGA Rating: 72.1

Slope: 126

Superintendent: Tom Alex

Hunters Creek GC

Architect: Lloyd Clifton

Date Opened: 1986

Length: 7432-5755 yards

USGA Rating: 77.8

Slope: 127

Superintendent: Craig Shelton

Magnolia GC

Walt Disney World Resort

Architect: Joe Lee

Date Opened: 1970

Length: 7150-5485 yards

USGA Rating: 73.9

Slope: 133

Superintendent: Larry Kamphaus, CGCS

Palm GC

Walt Disney World Resort

Architect: Joe Lee

Date Opened: 1970

Length: 6917-5398 yards

USGA Rating: 73.0

Slope: 133

Superintendent: Larry Kamphaus, CGCS

Lake Buena Vista GC

Walt Disney World Resort

Architect: Joe Lee

Date Opened: 1972

Length: 6655-5359 yards

USGA Rating: 71.7 (change pending)

Slope: 127 (change pending)

Superintendent: Scott Welder

are all tournament tested.

Even GCSAA rookie Buck Buckner, who qualified by winning the Poa Annu Classic at the Naples Beach Club, has seen national combat.

The 37-year-old Orlando superintendent (Orange Tree CC), who picked up the game while stationed at Lackland AFB in San Antonio, Tex., scrambled to 3-under the last two days to place second in the National Left-Handed Golfers Championship at Bay Tree Plantation in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

Fred Klauk, 39-year-old superintendent of the Tournament Players Club at Sawgrass in Ponte Vedra — the PGA Tour's home course — made the team by accumulating the lowest total score in the Florida GCSA's three official qualifying events: Poa Annu, Crowfoot and FTGA Research Scholarship tournament.

Also a Gator intramural champ, Klauk was introduced to the game by his father and he played for his high school team in Riviera Beach.

Rounding out the top foursome is Joe Ondo, Florida GCSA's golf chairman and multiple titleholder from

previous years who made this year's team through the back door.

With the second-lowest average for the season, Ondo moved up when FTGA champ Hal Hicks learned he could not play in the national event.

Competitors in the championship flight will be tested by two entirely different types of golf courses.

Nicklaus' links-style New Course has nary a tree and very little water, with ball-eating lovegrass everywhere off the beaten path.

Hunters Creek, the other venue for the low handicappers, features wall-to-wall turf with more than 5,000 trees. Water comes into play on 13 holes.

Designed by Lloyd Clifton and opened in February, 1986, Hunters Creek has been host to the Florida Open, the Florida State Amateur, a U.S. Open qualifier and a PGA Tour Qualifying School sectional tournament.

The rest of the field, competing on a modified point-quota system, will test the three courses at Walt Disney World Resort, all designed by Joe Lee (See profile, page 64).