

A runner-up no longer:

Sentimental favorite Dick Stuntz captures long-sought-after GCSAA crown

By PETER BLAIS
JAMUL, Calif. — Dick Stuntz hates to admit it, but he expects to be a lot more relaxed when he plays in next year's Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Golf Championship.

That's because the head superintendent of Lawrence, Kansas' Alvarn Country Club finally won his first GCSAA crown after several near-misses over the past 13 years.

This year's 36-hole tourney was played at Steele Canyon Golf Club near San Diego, Calif.

"I was really tickled," said Stuntz, who had previous finishes of second, third and fourth before taking this year's crown by a single stroke over Paul Jett of Duke University

Golf Club in Durham, N.C. "This has been a real goal of mine for a long time.

"You don't like to talk about things like pressure. But I do feel like a monkey has been lifted off my back."

Stuntz felt he was in good position after "an extremely solid first round" of 75 that saw him hit 17 greens in regulation.

"Unfortunately I three-putted four times and ended up with a birdie and five bogeys. I wasn't

alone with putting problems.

The greens were in good condition, but very hard to read because of the mountains in the background," he said.

About a dozen golfers were in front of Stuntz after the first day, led by three-time champ (1985, '88 and '89) Dave Powell of Myers Park Country Club in Charlotte, N.C., with a 1-under-par round of 70.

Stuntz parred the first nine holes on day two. He was

standing on the 10th tee when he heard the news about tourney leaders Powell and playing partner Randy Nichols that opened the door for the rest of the field.

According to Nichols, he and Powell were playing the same brand of ball.

Nichols marked his with a black dot and Powell used blue. They inadvertently putted each other's balls on the 3rd green, but didn't realize it until they

had both teed off on the 4th. Following the rules, they disqualified themselves.

"If we'd noticed it before teeing off on the 4th, we could have taken two-shot penalties," Nichols remembered. "I was doing OK at that point, although I probably wouldn't have won. Dave had a great shot at it, though.

"He was 1-under the first day, had another birdie to go 2-under

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GCSAA tournament's top finishers

Following are the names of the championship flight's top 11 finishers, home courses, first round, second round and total scores for the 1993 Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Golf Championship held Jan. 23-24 at Steele Canyon Golf Club in San Diego, Calif.

Richard "Dick" Stuntz 75-72-147
Alvarn Country Club
Lawrence, Kansas

Paul Jett 76-72-148
Duke University Golf Club
Durham, N.C.

P. Mac Blanchard 73-76-149
Jennings Golf & Country Club
Jennings, La.

Sam Williamson 75-74-149
Ojai Valley Inn & Country Club
Ojai, Calif.

David Buckles 74-76-150
Steele Canyon Golf Club

Clint Deeds 78-72-150
Tascosa Country Club
Amarillo, Texas

Roger Null 78-73-151
Norwood Hills Country Club
St. Louis

Michael Wilson 73-78-151
Cannongate at White Oak Golf Club
Newnan, Ga.

Mark Henderson 77-74-151
Atlantis Golf Club
West Palm Beach, Fla.

Bill Martin 74-77-151
Victoria Club
Riverside, Calif.

Michael Orren 73-78-151
El Toro Community Golf Center
Laguna Nigel, Calif.



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