

Clodfelter edges Williamson at GCSAA tournament

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — Mitch Clodfelter, superintendent at Cowans Ford Country Club, in Stanley, N.C., won his first Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) national championship, squeezing out a one-stroke victory over Sam Williamson, superintendent at Ojai Valley Inn & Spa.

The two-day championship tournament, a popular feature of the annual GCSAA Conference and Show, played out at Pecan Valley Golf Club and Canyon Springs Golf Club, both located in the San Antonio area.

Clodfelter posted consecutive rounds of one over par to win the 2001 title. On the first day he fired a

72 at Pecan Valley, and he followed up with a 73 at Canyon Springs. He was tied with Williamson going into the second and final round.

A two-hour fog delay forced a shotgun start at Canyon Springs, so players didn't always know where they stood against the competition. With Williamson already in the clubhouse at 146, Clodfelter

came to the 387-yard par-4 18th, needing only a par for the win. His tee shot sailed wide right, but after chipping out of some deep rough back to the fairway, he knocked his approach shot to within three feet of the pin, and sunk the putt for par and a 145.

Clodfelter received a USGA "travelling trophy" at the

conference's opening night festivities in Dallas, a trophy he'll keep at his club for a year. It cycles to each year's winner. He will also receive a Bobby Jones trophy, which is his to keep.



Mitch Clodfelter

760 PARTICIPANTS

A total of 760 players entered the tournament, playing on seven different courses. Qualifying for the championship rounds is based on handicap. "We take the best 120 handicap indexes and that makes the championship group," said Jeff Graham, a communication specialist at GCSAA who worked on the event.

The entry fee for the tournament was \$380, plus another \$120 for the Sunday four-ball, a two-man team competition.

"We end up utilizing the golf courses for five days," said Graham. "We have practice rounds on Friday and Saturday, the four-ball on Sunday, and the championship on Monday and Tuesday. So we need to find seven courses that can give us their courses for that period. It can be tough, because February is high season at some clubs. Next year the conference is in Orlando, so finding courses will be more difficult."

For the past six years, the GCSAA golf championship has been presented in partnership with the Toro Co. Toro helps to staff the event, contributes tee prizes and hosts numerous social events for participants. The company also makes donations to the GCSAA Foundation in the name of individual flight and team winners.

Schwarzkopf opens show

DALLAS, Texas — At the opening session of the Golf Course Superintendent Association of America's annual conference, the Gulf War leader, retired U.S. Army general H. Norman Schwarzkopf, was the keynote speaker here at the Adam's Mark Hotel.

"Confidence," belted Schwarzkopf, "is one trait required to be a leader. But anybody can be confident. Confidence is useless without character."

There were two rules, stated Schwarzkopf, instilled in him during his tenure at the Pentagon. "Rule #13 - When given command, take charge. A leader needs to step up to the plate and make things happen," he said. "Rule #14 - Do the right thing."

He continued by stating that leadership is not management. "A good manager does not guarantee a good leader," said the general. "Give ideas, create deadlines, make high standards, establish goals, but don't tell people how to do their job."

GOLF COURSE NEWS



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