

From the time that competitors arrived on the Monterey Peninsula, California Amateur week promised to be an unusual one. So it should be no surprise that the No. 31 seeded player (out of 32), **EDDIE HEINEN**, would win the California Amateur Championship, the lowest seed to win the title in at more than a quarter century (possibly much longer; records don't indicate the seeds of winners earlier than 1976).

It was a week for records. In addition to Heinen, **TED LYFORD** and the South senior team set low-mark scoring records (see pages 38-39). By contrast, medalist **DON DUBOIS'** score of 146 was the highest since two-round qualifying was re-instituted in 1988 and the spread of just seven shots between the medalist and the cutline (153) for the 32-man match play field was the narrowest in that same time frame.

Neither of last year's finalists made the cut.

Runner-up **TRAVIS JOHNSON** had to pull out of the tournament after an emergency appendectomy the week before. **DARRY DONOVAN**, the 2001 champion, became the second consecutive defending champ to miss the cut the following year (2000 champion **NICK JONES** missed match play last year).

This year, DuBois became the 81st medalist who failed to also win the championship (the last to win was **STEVE WOODS** in 1994) when he lost in the first round to **ED CUFF, JR.** The DuBois-Cuff battle was a match of old friends; they played together in the 1980s on the Asian tour.

Only 13 Southern Californians qualified for match play, the lowest number since 1980, when just 10 made the field. Thanks to several "knockout" (South vs. South) matches, only five advanced to the quarterfinals (**CUFF**, **HEINEN** and **MARK WARMAN** of San Clemente).

Just three of the qualifiers were teenagers (the youngest was 17-year-old **RYAN THORNBERRY** of Ceres). By contrast,

eight were age 40 or more and another 10 were ages 30-40.

The oldest, at age 47, was **MARK "BUZZ" PEEL**, who lives a few months of the year at The Lodge at Pebble Beach. Peel, who made the quarterfinals last year, had the tournament's low stroke play round this, a 4-under-par 68 at Pebble Beach on Tuesday, which included six birdies. Bidding to become the oldest player ever to win the championship, Peel lost 1 up to



Jonathan Echols' dad, John, has caddied for him during every California Amateur round for the past three years.

Heinen in the semifinals.

Caddies were often a family affair throughout the week. As he has done for the past three years, **JOHN ECHOLS** (head professional at Kings CC in Hanford) was on the bag for all son Jonathan's matches during the week. **SCOTT TERRY's** wife, **TERRI** (yes, her name really is Terri Terry) carried for Scott up to and including his semifinal loss to Echols. **CATHY CUFF** didn't carry Ed's bag, but she and sons **BRIAN** and **KEVIN** followed dad for every step of the way, right through his quarterfinal loss to Echols.

One who didn't follow was **EDDIE HEINEN's** wife, **JONNA**. "She just gets too nervous," he explained later. "She tried to follow one match and was almost a basket case."

Best line of the week came from SCGA Treasurer **BILL CUNERTY** (the Saddleback College golf coach), who shot 81-81 in the CGA Senior Amateur Championship at Poppy Hills GC: "If I was coaching me, I'd cut me."

—Robert D. Thomas

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