

Crowe captures Northwest Open golf crown

by JOHN LINDTWEDE
Times staff reporter

"That was about the hardest thing I've ever done — play well with a lead," David Crowe said after holding off several challenges yesterday to win the Pacific Northwest Open by three strokes at Tacoma Country and Golf Club.

Crowe, an assistant pro at Rock Creek, Ore., who expects to bow out of professional golf to return to school this fall, won the tournament with a 10-under-par total of 278 after shooting a one-over-par 73 and a 72 in the final 36 holes.

His closest follower was Mike Gove of Sand Point, whose rounds of 69-71 gave him low-amateur honors with 281.

Fred Couples of Jefferson Park finished at 282 after calling a penalty stroke on himself when his ball moved as he addressed a putt on the 12th hole. He tied Doug Campbell of Auburn and Randy Jensen of Twin Lakes, who

mounted the strongest charges of the final 18 holes.

In all, 13 finalists matched or bettered the 72-hole par of 288.

BRENT MURRAY, in Crowe's threesome, trailed by four after two rounds. He made his move in the morning round. The Portland amateur trailed by one stroke after the first three holes after carding three birdies while Crowe was bogeying twice. But Crowe cut off that challenge with a birdie to go with two Murray bogeys over the next seven holes.

Murray finished at 72. Crowe had his only over-par score of the tournament, a 73. When Murray soared to 76 in the afternoon, he finished at 286.

Brian Haugen, who started seven strokes behind Crowe, and Gove, who started eight back, moved into contention with morning 68s. Haugen started the afternoon round three strokes behind Gove. Jensen and Murray were four strokes off the pace.

Crowe's own errors created the final-round suspense.

He started with a birdie, then hit out of bounds on the par-5 second, and got by with only a bogey when he holed two strokes later. He atoned for that with a 15-foot birdie on seven.

Crowe made his biggest "donation" to his pursuers on the par-four eighth, where he tried to play a shot safe to the right. It landed behind a heavily foliated tree and his "recovery" put the ball under another branch to the right.

Crowe's low shot to the green went over the hole. He finished with a double bogey that dropped him from 11 to 9-under par for the tournament. A birdie on nine gave him an even-par 37.

Jensen climbed to three strokes behind, Campbell was four strokes off the pace and Couples five back. Haugen had slipped out of contention with a 41.

Crowe bogeyed from a trap on 11. Jensen, playing ahead of Crowe, trailed by just one after birdies at 15 and 16.

But Crowe birdied 15, and Jensen's bogey at 17 settled the outcome.

CROWE, 26, said he had pinned his pro hopes on making the tour in a qualifying school last year.

"But I had a 79 on the last round and missed qualifying by one stroke. It's been living with me ever since."

"But I'll never try it again, I'm one year too old."

He expects to enter Portland

State in the fall, then work toward a degree in dentistry.

"I'll be about a sophomore at Portland State," he said.

Crowe said he felt he had the championship when he escaped trouble on the 14th hole.

"I snapped a drive to the right, and the trees stopped it from going out of bounds, and I still had a shot at the green."

"I hit a four wood three feet short of the green and got my par."

The tournament was sponsored by Equitable Savings.

CHIPS—Four Washington amateurs who played are part of the state's delegation to next week's

United States Amateur in Cleveland. They are Gove, Couples, Haugen and Jon Heselwood of Se-

lah. They will be joined by Rick Fehr of Sand Point, who earlier this week won the National Junior tournament, and Scott Williams of Bellevue.

The amateur honor was Gove's second of the week. He teamed with his brother, Dennis, to win the state best-ball title at Inglewood Sunday.

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Chursky's shutout streak snapped

Associated Press

While the odds were catching up with Tony Chursky, Chicago Sting goalkeeper, age may have caught up with his teammates.

"It was a tough match because of Chicago's experience, but they are pretty old age-wise, and they couldn't keep up with our pace," said Yilmaz Orhan, who scored the second goal in the San Diego Sockers' 2-0 North American Soccer League victory last night.

The victory, a season-high fifth straight for the Sockers, saw the end of Chursky's remarkable string of four straight shutouts, including two in earlier American Conference playoff matches.

San Diego's Ade Coker, healthy again after missing much of the season, broke through 31 minutes into the game, halting Chursky's "string at 36 minutes."

"We didn't think it was going to be that physical," Coker said. But when the game started, and after we scored the first goal, we knew they were going to come out kicking or end up defending. They started kicking."

Volkmar Gross, the winning goalkeeper, said he believed the Stinging got stung by its over-aggressive play.

"I think they got a little carried away doing what they shouldn't do, making fouls — deliberate fouls — and things like that. I think that was a big part in their losing," said Gross, who made five saves out of the Sting's 15 shots.

"Our confidence has really been built up these last five games,"

said Orhan, who scored less than three minutes after Coker.

The series goes into a second match at Chicago Saturday night. If Chicago wins there will be a 30-minute "mini-game" to decide the series winner.

A crowd of 11,367 set a San Diego playoff attendance record.

Aztec 3

Whitecaps 2

PASADENA, Calif. Dave Morrison of the Los Angeles Az-

tecs had never played in a pro game before. But there he was, facing five point-blank kicks in an overtime shootout of a playoff match.

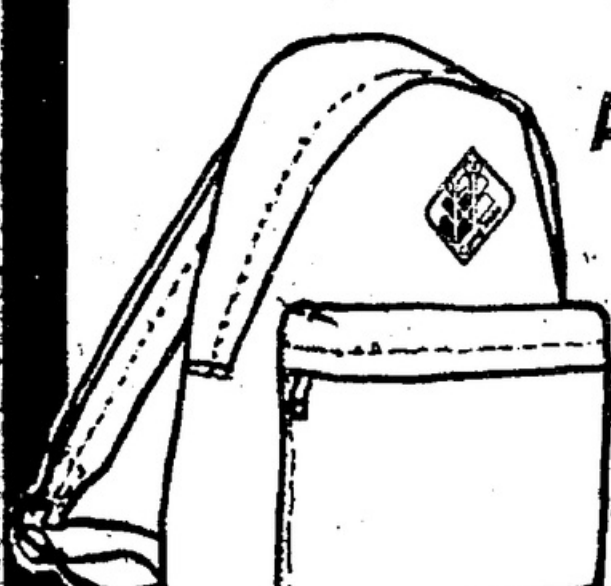
Morrison was beaten on the first shot, by Vancouver's Bob Lenarduzzi. But he stopped three others and said "it was a gift from heaven" when another Whitecaps' shot hit the right goalpost and bounced away. Meanwhile, the Aztecs made two of their kicks to win the shootout, capture the match and lead the second-round series, 1-0.

An Aztecs spokesman said Colin Boulton, the regular keeper, was victimized in regular-season shootouts. Coach Rinus Michels three or four weeks ago began to work on such situations with Morrison, a rookie from Fullerton State University.

"My mind was a complete blank and I was just reacting to the situation," Morrison said. "I was a little nervous. I will say that for sure. I knew before the overtime period that I would be in, if there was a shootout."

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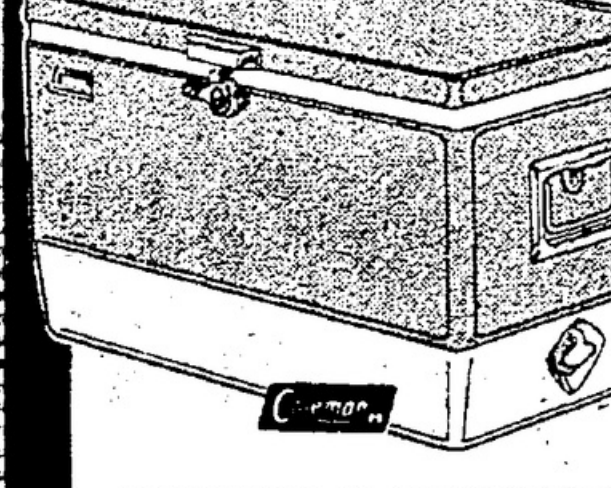
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