

## 'Excitement' returns, Jensen holds off Taylor for title

by Lynn Mucken  
Times staff reporter

VANCOUVER, Wash. — Federal Way's Randy Jensen stood in the trap on the 16th hole yesterday during the final round of the Northwest Open golf championship.

Minutes earlier, he had watched his lead slip away as a 4-foot putt slid past the hole. His playing partner, Burlington amateur Scott Taylor, was tied with him. Up ahead on the Royal Oaks Country Club course, Snohomish's Rick Acton and touring pro Jeff Sanders of Portland were one stroke off the pace.

"I just remembered what Tom Watson says: 'When you're in a trap, only three things can happen: You can hole it, you can hit it close and make the putt, or you can hit it not so close and make the putt,'" Jensen said.

The 28-year-old assistant pro at Twin Lakes Country Club chose the middle road. He popped the ball out of the sand and 2½ feet past the pin, then rammed the putt into the center of the hole.

Taylor then bogeyed the hole and Acton and Sanders failed to make par on the 18th. Jensen had a one-stroke lead over Taylor and, just as important to him, a two-stroke lead over pros Acton and Sanders in the race for the \$6,000 first prize.

When Taylor bogeyed the 17th hole, Jensen coasted in for his 71 and 54-hole total of 211, five under par.

Taylor, who closed with a 1-

### NW OPEN

over 73, Sanders and Acton, both with final-round 71s, tied for second at 213. Portland pro Jerry Minor was another stroke back after his 73, and Kitsap Country Club's Bob Kelly tied with 36-hole leader Mike Early for sixth at 215. Kelly had a final-round 69 and Early, who had shot a sensational opening-round 65, faded to a 76 by bogeying three of the last five holes.

Jensen, a big man known for his long hitting, is a three-time Washington Assistants champion but had never been a factor in any major regional tournaments. In fact, he admitted, competitive golf had lost some of its glamour to him. That changed last weekend when he arrived in his home town for this tournament.

"The last couple of years, the excitement has kind of disappeared," he said. "But the minute I drove into Royal Oaks, with all the banners and everything, I felt like this was a tour tournament." Jensen opened with a 73 that was rained out Sunday, came back with another 73 that counted Monday, shot the day's best round — a 67 — Tuesday, then took over the lead yesterday by making birdies on the seventh and eighth holes. He was never out of the lead after that, although at various times both Taylor and Sanders moved into tie. Jensen hit some sensational shots yesterday — he had three birdie putts of less than 4 feet — and some poor ones, but his

expression never changed.

"Before, I always had a temper and that hurt me a lot," he said. "But in a tournament like this you can't afford to blow it. I've gotten better because I'm older and smarter."

Not being smart in club selection hurt Taylor, the Skagit County Club player who won the Oregon Open and is playing in his

final amateur tournament before turning pro and trying out for the PGA tour. His 4-iron on the 196-yard 16th hole traveled about 210 yards and set up the bogey that knocked him out of the lead. "I just misclubbed," he said. "It never even hit the green. I might have pressed a little bit after not getting a birdie on 15 (where his chip came up 18 feet short)."

"It's been a long summer, but I don't have anything to be unhappy about. There were a lot of ups (winning the Oregon Open) and

downs (losing in the first round of the PGA), but that's golf. Now I have a month and a half to get my game in shape."

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### Local rowers qualify at worlds


Compiled from news services

DUISBURG, West Germany — The United States women's eight, coached by University of Washington coach Bob Ernst and featuring four Seattle-area rowers, qualified for a Saturday final at the World Rowing Championships here yesterday.

Husky assistant coach Kristine Norelius, from Bellevue, and Seattleites Pat Spratlen, Shyril O'Steen and Jan Harville helped lead the U.S. women's top crew to a winning time of 2:57.60. Carol Brown, another Seattle rower, stroked the four with a coxswain boat to a runner-up finish to the

Canadians, also qualifying for a final.

In men's action, former U.W. varsity coxswain Lee Miller was on the second place lightweight eight boat, a U.S. boat which finished behind Australia in qualifying for the final.



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