

Summary: The Tacoma golfer finishes at Heron Lakes at 6 under par

Brian **Mogg** was looking for a confidence boost in the \$135,000 G.I. Joe's/Thriftway **Northwest Open**, and he got it Sunday in windy weather at Heron Lakes Golf Course.

While his major rivals, including PGA Tour pro Bob Gilder of Corvallis, faded away, **Mogg** claimed the championship with a solid closing round of 1-under-par 71. He finished 54 holes at 6-under 210 and earned \$25,000.

``This should give me a good, positive feeling going into the tour qualifying school," said **Mogg**, a Tacoma resident who has had limited playing privileges on the tour this year. ``I need to qualify higher because I only have gotten into four tour tournaments this summer."

Dave DeLong, a pro who played golf at Gresham High School and the University of Oregon, rode a 68 into second place at 212, passing eight players.

``What really pleases me is the way I played the back nine," DeLong said. ``That nine penalizes you so much for mistakes and I just didn't make any."

DeLong shot a 3-under 33 on the 2-year-old nine which is saturated with water hazards, bunkers and mounds. He missed a 10-foot birdie putt at the 413-yard 18th that would have given him a 32.

Two other young pros, Steve Rintoul of Eugene and Scott Williams of Redmond, Wash., tied for third at 213. Rintoul closed with a 73, Williams with a 75.

Gilder, who shared the lead after the first and second rounds, made a birdie on the first hole and led briefly at 7-under par, but he couldn't get anything going after that. He finally had to settle for a 77 and sixth place at 215.

Making an even bigger move than DeLong on the final day was former Seattle pro Mike Gove of Palm Springs, Calif. He had the tournament's best round, a 67, and climbed into fifth place at 214.

``It was the best round I've had in a long time," said Gove, a former tour player. ``Really, I lost my chance to win this tournament when I shot 75 in the first round. I was playing early and in perfect conditions that day."

Gove had six birdies and made his only bogey after hitting his tee shot into a water hazard at the 18th.

Mogg, 28, is a former Ohio State golfer who was a college teammate of tour pros Joey Sindelar, Chris Perry and John Cook. He has another Ohio State influence, using the interlocking grip espoused by ex-Buckeye Jack Nicklaus.

``Absolutely," **Mogg** replied when asked if Nicklaus had influenced his decision to use the interlocking grip.

Mogg, who won the Sandvik Washington Open earlier this year and has earned about \$55,000 playing golf in 1989, started quickly with birdies on the first three holes. He sank putts of 4, 12 and 8 feet.

``Playing with a guy like Gilder, I knew I couldn't back off," **Mogg** said. ``I felt pretty comfortable with my game all day."

His birdie at the 426-yard third hole gave him the lead at 8-under and he never relinquished it. Slowly, Gilder and Williams dropped off the pace. Both made double-bogeys after hitting shots into water -- Williams at the

503-yard fourth and Gilder at the 182-yard 15th.

Meanwhile, **Mogg** put together a string of 11 pars from the fourth through the 14th holes. By that time, he had a four-stroke lead, and only a collapse could have stopped him.

Three times during his par streak, **Mogg** left himself with par putts of from 4 to 6 feet. He made them all.

Finally, he slipped to bogeys at the 15th and 17th holes but he didn't come close to collapsing.

``Scott kind of took me off the hook at the 17th when he missed a short putt and made a bogey," **Mogg** said.

That sent **Mogg** to the final hole with a two-shot lead over DeLong, who had concluded his round.

``I hit a 1-iron off the tee and a 3-iron second shot," **Mogg** said. ``Both shots went right where I wanted them to go."

Then he two-putted from 40 feet for his par, sinking his second putt from 6 feet to clinch his triumph.

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