

# Fowler Wins State Senior Golf

By RALPH MOORE  
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Les Fowler gave a little golf clinic to boys of winter Friday as he won the 1980 Colorado State Seniors stroke play championship by a wide six-shot margin.

The state senator from Boulder who coached the University of Colorado golf team for 29 years, carded rounds of 70-71-73 for a 2-under-par 214 from the big blue tees (7,080 yards) of The Pinery Country Club.

Runner-up James English Sr. who has won state amateur titles in four states and was low amateur in the 1959 U.S. Open at Winged Foot, was nine shots up on Gil Gallegos of The Pinery and Bill Waggener of the Denver Country Club, but had nothing to challenge the pure, steady game of Fowler.

English finished at 220. Gallegos, who signed a wrong card and was disqualified, and Waggener each had 229s.

"You lapped the field on us," Waggener offered in praise of Fowler's performance. English, who could have put a bit of pressure on Fowler with a more consistent putter, felt Fowler was just too consistent for any of the seniors to touch.

**MONDAY, FOWLER** will be at the Rolling Hills Country Club, seeking one of three area berths available for the first U.S. Senior Open golf tournament

scheduled at Winged Foot, Mamaroneck, N.Y.

"I'd love to be one of the three," Fowler admitted. "Who wouldn't want to play in the inaugural of this tournament?"

For the three rounds of the 54-hole seniors, Fowler was 8-under-par on the four par 5s at The Pinery, capping his first round with an eagle 3 on the 603-yard 18th where he reached with a drive and a 3-wood and then drilled a 5-foot putt.

He birdied each of the four par 5s his second round and had birdies on both the front nine par 5s Friday. He admitted getting greedy at the 18th Friday and it cost him a bogey 6. Otherwise he would have matched or broken par all three rounds.

With the wind at his back Friday he "reached" for a husky drive off the tee and duck-hooked the ball into the rough. This broke the golden rule that got him where he is today, playing sound, smart golf. Fowler came out of the rough short, found a sand bunker with his third shot, and then blasted out 50 feet beyond the green. However, he came back with a nifty chip 3 feet from the pin to salvage his bogey 6.

**AS FAR** as the tournament was concerned, it was academic. As far as Fowler is concerned, it was a mortal sin. His playing philosophy at the age of 55 is to play within his strength and talent. His consistency stems from holding himself in control of his game at all times.

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**GOLFER LES FOWLER**

Walks away with seniors' crown.

## Fowler Wins State Seniors

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"I don't know where the consistency thing came from," he said. "I really think most people swing too hard. I've found it is a better game if you swing less hard, use one more club and keep it in play."

"I've been erratic. I never hit the ball as far or as well as the better players but I've always been better than average chipping and putting. I used to miss a lot of greens so I had to be better with the chipper and putter," he said.

"I used to watch the college kids and all they wanted to do was hit just a driver and a wedge on every hole. They consistently under-clubbed . . . felt it a matter of pride if they hit more stick. In working with them and trying to get them to take one more club and swing easy, I got the idea myself and took my own advice."

Fowler's opponents in the seniors this week were mainly hampered by a lack of putting proficiency.

"I **THREE-PUTTED** the second hole every round," Fowler said, but he couldn't recall struggling too much with the short blade.

"There's no way you can be a good putter without practicing and I mean 300 or 400 putts working on the lagging and the short ones. That 3- to 4-footer is critical. It affects your confidence and soon you can't play."

Fowler doesn't care what the age factor is, he said. "Most people move on their putts and they don't develop something they can repeat time after time."

### FRIDAY'S RESULTS

**CHAMPIONSHIP FLIGHT** — Les Fowler, Boulder C.C., 214; Jim English Sr., Overland G.C., 220; Bill Waggener, Denver C.C., 229; Ken Sorenson, Wellshire G.C., 235. **FIRST FLIGHT** — Jim Gwinn, 204; Bob Karlin, 210; J. Wilson, 214; Ed Nosewicz, 216. **SECOND FLIGHT** — Bob Roberts, 214; Bill Prentice, 214; Rusty Vesper, 215; Cliff Brunig, 215. **THIRD FLIGHT** — Jim Littlejohn, 209; Jim McBurney, 219; A. Maxey, 221; Mike Korunych, 221. **FOURTH FLIGHT** — Vince Enkler, 218; Vern Schroer, 218; Bob Milne, 221; Lyle Scott, 221. **FIFTH FLIGHT** — Oscar Weible, 222; Hol Pfeifer, 223; D. VanShoonveld, 224; Lyle Littrell, 224. **MASTERS FLIGHT (70 and older)** — Harry Wrenn, 199; Ray Sands, 211; Harold Garman, 219; Howard Peck, 223.