

GOLF

Dean takes match-play limelight again

By Todd Phipers
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LITTLETON — During the school year, Brett Dean often plays in the shadows of an Arizona State friend and teammate.

That's just the way it goes when Phil Mickelson, the reigning U.S. Amateur champion and the consensus pick as golf's next superstar, is on the same team.

But Dean has taken a backseat to nobody when he has returned to his home state at the end of classes the past couple of summers.

The lanky 21-year-old Evergreen resident, named the Colorado Golf Association's 1990 player of the year, began this year's resume' in grand style yesterday, winning his second straight State Match-Play Championship at Arrowhead Golf Club.

Dean defeated Tom Kalinowski of Durango 3 and 1 in the 36-hole final for a repeat triumph in a tournament he captured for the first time a year ago at Bear Creek Golf Club.

Although the results suggested that he breezed through three of four preliminary matches, the Arizona State senior-to-be said he was

grinding at times throughout the tournament. That was particularly true when gusty winds swirled through the red rocks pinnacles of the picturesque course in the foothills yesterday morning.

"I played very poorly," Dean said after a conceded par at the 17th hole of the afternoon round finally had taken the measure of the 22-year-old Kalinowski. "Both Tom and I struggled.

"The weather had a lot to do with it, I think," Dean said. "Over the week the weather took its toll because my tempo just got really fast every day. But luckily, my course management wasn't too bad, and that's probably what won it for me.

"I know I'm the type of player that if I can get some momentum to jump in my bag, it comes around my way a lot," added the two-time former state prep champion during his days at Evergreen High School. "When it's not there, I need to make sure I get around and make pars the best I can."

Pars were all that were necessary early in the day, as Dean grabbed the lead on a seesaw first nine in which he won six holes with

them while Kalinowski was taking three the same way.

After three early lead changes, the match was even after six holes, but Kalinowski bogeyed Nos. 7, 8 and 9 to fall three back, and never caught up.

"I misclubbed on all three and didn't get up and down on any of them," said the ex-Fort Lewis College player, who is hoping to receive a medical redshirt season so he can complete his career at the University of Colorado in the fall.

"That kind of dug a hole a little early. I pretty much hung in there the rest of the day. I didn't lose

any more from then on, but against a guy like Brett you can't get too far behind," Kalinowski said.

Both players caught fire on the second nine of the first 18 as the wind died down, Kalinowski birdieing five of six holes to end the round and still failing to make up ground as Dean responded with two birdies and an eagle.

"I think that if I could have pulled it back to even there, I would have had a better chance," said Kalinowski, who flew to Indiana last night to play in the U.S. Public Links Championship starting to-

day. "But he hung in there and he beat me on 17 and eagled 18, and that helped out a lot."

The afternoon round was more of the same, both finalists playing well in spurts and Kalinowski pulling to within 1-down on the third hole before Dean managed some breathing room.

"Tom's a tough player," said Dean, who will compete in the Colorado Open on his home Hiwan Golf Club course Thursday. "He's got a lot of game. I wasn't at the top of my game, so I knew I had to be careful because he can string up birdies, it seems like."



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REPEAT: Brett Dean won his second straight State Match-Play title with a 3-and-1 victory over Tom Kalinowski.