

Wally's Dream Slips Away Before Charge of Yates

20-Year-Old
Star Wins
Atlanta Open

By **BILL ROBINSON**

Wayne Yates is a youthful golf pro with iron in his face and the determination is his heart to be a champion.

Caught in the most competitive pressure of his young golfing life, the juvenile professional, only 20, responded beautifully and cut down 45-year-old Wally Cochran early Friday evening in a sudden death playoff for the Atlanta Open Golf Championship.

"This is my first big one," the angular and sun-tanned youngster said. "I've been a pro for 3½ years, and this is the big one. And I knew I could do it. Last year Cobby Ware won it and I was only seven strokes behind him.

"It just took some practice. I had to work. And I did. There's no substitute for it. I knew I could win this tournament if I really tried."

And Yates, assistant pro at Candler Park to his dad, Ben Yates, took an entire week and a solid six holes of high-pressure driving and putting to conquer Cochran, an amateur who saw the largest golf stake in his life sink with a slice shot that dropped into the drink on the No. 6 hole.

Both Yates and Cochran had fired twin 72s on Monday, the first day of the Open. The big split field took to East Lake Country Club's large and challenging course Friday for the last day (the event had been purposefully separated into Monday and Friday competition). Another blister-



Staff Photo—Hugh Stovall

**YOUNG WAYNE YATES WATCHES OPPONENT
Wally Cochran Was the Victim of Youth Movement**

ing 18 holes could not settle the issue between the two. Yates went out with a 38, came back with a 36.

Together, Cochran and Yates scrambled and fired with precision to par the first four holes, then played it conservative and bogeyed No. 5. Here Cochran's fateful slice submarined into the water, and Yates, driving into a sand trap, played it cautious and safely, blasting with an easy stroke from the sand, then tapping

two timid but safe putts for a bogey and the championship. Cochran had to take the penalty stroke, then two-putted for a double-bogey five.

x-Wayne Yates, 74-146 (won title in playoff); Wally Cochran, 74-146; x-John Gerrin, 75-149; Lefty Ewing, 75-149; Frank Ziegler, 77-149; x-Jim Yates, 76-151; Cobby Ware, 78-151; x-James Williams, 77-151.
x-Ralph Dillow, 77-152; Charles Harrison, 78-152; Paul Sheppard, 81-152; Ray Taylor, 74-153; x-Babe Hart, 83-153; x-Tom Bloodworth, 78-153; x-Bobby Pomeroy, 76-153; Pierce Miller, 78-153; x-Bill Hardie, 80-153; J. D. Croston, 80-154; Don Scartz, 79-154; Bobby Pierce, 80-154; x-Jack MacDowall, 79-154; x-Sonnie Silverman, 79-154; Joe Parella, 80-154; H. R. Samples, 75-154.

MINOSO HITS WALL, FRACTURES SKULL