

Yates Makes It a Runaway

By BOB HERTZEL

Perhaps George Preisinger, the long-hitting Marjetta pro who spent two frustrating days trying to match Wayne Yates shot for shot in the Atlanta Open, summed up everyone's feelings when he said:

"You can print this. Wayne Yates is going to be one of the top 10 professionals on the tour."

Yates is now on his way to proving Preisinger right. Next stop, Oklahoma City. Then, who knows, who knows?

ALL YOUNG Yates has done over the past two days at Cannongate Golf Club is win the Atlanta Open by a rousing six strokes over H. Ward Wettlaufer, the defending champion. And he did it with the lowest score anyone can remember—134—coming on a 66 Thursday and at 68 Friday.

Clicking in all phases of his game as he never had before, the 24-year-old son of golf pro Jim Yates left no doubt as to who was the best in the Atlanta Open. After only five weeks on the PGA tour and now with this big win, worth \$300, Yates has them predicting greatness.

"Right now I'm just looking for a win on the tour," he said modestly. "I'm not going to make any predictions when it will come either. You never know about that. It's awfully hard to put four real good rounds together under that tremendous pres-

"I BELIEVE I can make a good living on the sure. I hope it isn't too long though.



Wayne Yates

ATLANTA OPEN SCORES

134—Yates (x); 140—Wettlaufer; 141—Harrison; 143—White (x); Wagner; 144—Emory Lee (x); 146—Keen; 147—Schulten, Hayes (x); 148—Smith; 149—Carroll; 150—Besselink (x), Cleveland; 151—Pauk (x), Carter, Hoard; 152—Grant; 153—Henson, Owen, Stowe Jeffreys; 154—Tomasello (x), Dillow (x), Fraser, Tripp; 155—Beldon; 156—Lewis, McEwen (x), Binns, Seagraves (x); 157—Adams, Howard, Zivich, Starr, Rutledge; 158—Hay, Davis, Bloodworth (x), MacKowall (x), Sherman; 159—Hall, Cook, H. Cole (x), Walker (x); Binks, Coffee, Henson; 160—William (x) Bearden, Preisinger (x), Barnes, Corley; 161—Sudduth, Johnson, Clendennen (x); 162—Wilson, Hugains, Butler; 163—Davis; 164—Kins, Pittard, Whisenand; 165—Allen (x), Phillips, P. Cole (x), Hardwick, Lee; 166—Benefield, Leatherwood, Andreoli, Morris, Horne, Howington; 168—Bearden, Roberts; 169—Jeffries, Morrison, Reeves, Chenaill Fuller; 170—Perkerson Hilderbrand, Kuskendall, York, Hunter, Dufey; 171—Mobley, Burgin; 172—Brew, Azees; 173—Cantrell, Anderson, Stanford, Kanier; 175—Martin; 177—Wilkes, Bradley; 178—Suggs, Carelock; 180—White; 182—Paterson, Sirman, Robertson; 185—Goldstein, Teague.
(x)—Denotes professional.

tour. Right now my biggest concern is learning to use my head a little more. I've been giving up between 5 and 12 shots a tournament from not thinking."

It could just be that the 6-foot-2, 155-pound Yates has the problem of not thinking licked. In the Atlanta Open he didn't make a mistake.

"I didn't waste any unnecessary shots out there," he observed. "I couldn't have. I only had two bogeys in 36 holes."

Yates' play was so super that he drove fellow touring professional and new Atlantan George Bondeson right out of the tournament after 33 holes. Bondeson, who was having his troubles and was playing with Yates, picked up on the 16th green and called it a day.

"I JUST couldn't do anything right out there,"

said the Minnesota Mauler. "I went a couple of strokes over par and then had to go for everything. The pins were tucked behind the traps and I hit just about every one of them."

Although his score went up two strokes over the opening round, Yates felt he played as good a game of golf considering that Cannongate was playing at its toughest with the tees moved back and the pins sadistically placed.

"I putted real well—better than any time on the tour," he said. "But I may have been more pleased with my driving. I kept the ball in the fairways and didn't get into much trouble."

FOR THE SECOND day in a row Yates negotiated the Cannongate greens in 30 putts. He picked up a birdie at the par 5 second hole and then got a birdie at No. 4 when his chip hit the flag and dropped three feet from the hole.

"That's when I figured no one was going to catch me. I was two under and Bondeson was having trouble," Yates said.

Runner-up Wettlaufer, of course, was the low amateur in the field with a 140, but he had to survive a scare put to him by Dogwood champion Charlie Harrison. Harrison came to the 18th green needing a par to tie Wettlaufer, but three-putted for a bogey. He finished at 141. Curt Wagner and Darwin White came in at 143.

Host professional Emory Lee was the only other player in the starting field of 173 to match par at 144.