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Staff Photo—Charles Pugh

WAYNE YATES (L), CHARLIE HARRISON CONFER
Both Lost Atlanta Open Amateur Playoff to Dewitt Weaver

Weaver Wins Open In 2-Hole Playoff

By ALLEN HAUCK

Dewitt Weaver, the ex-quarterback from SMU who makes his money the hard way—on the PGA tour—laced a perfect four-iron shot and followed up with two pressure putts on the second sudden-death playoff hole at East Lake County Club Thursday to nip Wayne Yates and win the City Open jackpot.

Weaver, the muscular pro who began the day at 69 and three strokes behind Yates, the defending champion, and a stroke behind amateur Charlie Harrison, fashioned a two-under-par 70 to catch the leaders and force a three-way playoff at 139.

Yates, the slender slammer, who like Weaver has been on the tour for three years, ran aground early and slipped to a 75 after a first-round 66. Harrison, a veteran tournament player, carded a 71 to go with his opening 68, and it was off to extra holes.

Harrison led off the playoff and faded his drive into the rough. He came out weak and left his ball in the front trap. Weaver, one of the longest hitters on the circuit, powered his drive down the right side, but his ball landed in a quagmire and buried itself.

Weaver muscled into an eight iron and sent the ball just off the back fringe.

Yates, who hit a perfect drive, left his approach 12-feet beyond the pin. Harrison was too strong on his sand shot and blasted over the green and out of the running.

Weaver's first putt was strong and zipped 10 feet past the cup. Yates left himself with a two-footer, which he canned, and Weaver rifled in his "all-square" putt.

On the second hole, Weaver unloaded on a four-iron, got a slight draw and left himself with a 10-footer. Yates, however, hit his fat and was 60 feet short.

Yates lagged his putt, leaving it five feet short. Weaver just missed his to the right, but came from a foot for a par, Yates' putt lipped the cup and it was over.

The victory was worth $600 for Weaver, whose best tour finishes were second in the 1968 Greater Jacksonville Open and third in the same event this year. Yates pocketed $400, while host pro Paul Bondeson (71-70) took third money of $270.

Davis Love Jr. of Atlanta Country Club and Candler Park's Ted Hayes knotted a 142 and won $157.50 each, while Carl Sekton finished at even par 144 for $100.

Although the money went to the pros, several amateurs gave the play-for-pay boys something to think about.

In addition to Harrison, Eddie Brown and Wade Mayo Jr. finished strong. Brown, an ex-pro himself, had the day's hottest round, carding a 69 over the 6,942-yard layout, and finished at 141. Brown saw his fine round marred by four three-putt greens that kayoed his title hopes.

Mayo, only 18 year old, shot a 71-73.

The amateurs, however, will get another chance, but Harrison should be a hard man to catch. The Atlanta Golf Association is playing both the City Open and City Amateur simultaneously. The Amateur has another 18 holes to run, with the 36 Open holes counting toward the AM title.

Weaver, who hit an equivalent of 33 greens and had only three bogeys in two days, turned in 34 after getting birds on Nos. 6 (40 feet) and 9 (inches).

He bogeyed the 11th when he missed the green, but got the stroke back with an eight-foot birdie putt on the 16th and finished with a 36.

AGA OPEN RESULTS
Final Round