

Confident Cole stuns Atlanta Open field

Scores, Page 8-D

By Tom McCollister

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Playing with a confidence that belies his age and tournament experience, amateur Robby Cole from Kennesaw shot a 5-under-par 67 Tuesday and won the Atlanta Open at Snapfinger Golf Club.

Cole, 19, had a two-day total of 136, 8-under-par, and defeated a professionally dominated field. His margin was one over Canterbury pro Randy Mosley (70-67), who won the top prize of \$2,250, and another amateur, Ben Raney (67-70).

Metter pro Gregg Wolff (67-72), who shared the first round lead with Raney, finished third after bogeying two of the last four holes.

Bettors would have placed Cole's chances at no more than 75-1 when the field of 236 teed off Monday. He didn't make his University of Georgia team as a freshman last year and hardly

has been a dominant force in state amateur golf this summer, although he has been respectable.

But a little note from his father, Bobby; on-course silent cheerleading from his mom, Heide, and advice from an old friend and North Cobb coach, Emory Sewell, gave him the inner peace that brought out the best in an improving game.

"Dad left me a little note Sunday night that said, 'Go out there thinking you can win. Shoot you a little 5- to 7-under and you can do it.' That helped put me at ease and I had a lot of inner peace both days, and when I shot 69 Monday, I felt I was going to come out today and play well. Yeah, maybe win it," Cole said.

Despite the upset victory, Cole is no stranger to the winner's circle. But it has been a while. He won the state high school championship as a sophomore at North Cobb in 1981 and followed that with a Georgia State Junior crown the next year. But this is his first major.