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Lacy's birdie on first playoff hole gives him victory in Atlanta Open

Scores, Page 10-B
By Tom McCollister
Staff Writer

Blair Lacy's summer of golfing discontent came to an end Tuesday with a sudden-death victory in the Maxell Atlanta Open.

The teaching pro at Indian Hills sank a 10-foot birdie putt on the first extra hole to beat Sea Palms assistant Mike Cook, a former All-SEC golfer for the Georgia Bulldogs.

That was only half the story. Lacy started play six strokes out of the lead shared by Cherokee's Dan Murphy and Ted Meier, then shot the two-day tournament's best round, a 5-under par 67. Cook added a 70 to his opening 73.

Gene Matthews of the Columbus Country Club had a 69 to finish third at even-par 144, while Macon Idle Hour's Ren Morris (73-72) and defending champion Tommy Brannen of the Athletic Club tied for fourth at 145.

Meier shot 76 and Murphy 77 to finish well down the list. Villa Rica's Jett Rich finished as low amateur with rounds of 71-77.

"This means a lot to me," Lacy said, "especially

after having to come from so far back. I haven't played good all year and was beginning to wonder if I would. I knew I had a good round in me, but on this course you don't know if you can get it."

Lacy's path to victory was paved with his iron play and putting, the perfect combination for Flat Creek's fluffy fairways and bumpy greens. He had six birdies and only one came from outside eight feet, that from 20 at No. 4 on the Graveyard side.

The key to his round, however, was not birdies but a saving par at Graveyard's No. 6, his 15th hole. His drive barely stayed in bounds and he had to make a 15-footer for par.

"I'd just made a bogey at No. 5 and needed something good to happen," Lacy said. "When I made the par, it got me pumped up again."

There would have been no playoff had Cook taken care of business on his final two holes. After 16, he was 4-under for the day and 3-under for the tournament.

"But this is an 18-hole game and I couldn't get to the clubhouse with it," Cook said. "I bogeyed the last two holes, three-putted the 18th. I told myself after 16 that if I parred in I would win. I guess I got a little conservative, just didn't play very smart."



Golf

Maxell Atlanta Open

At Flat Creek C.C.

TUESDAY'S RESULTS Final Round

- 143 - Blair Lacy, Mike Cook
 - 144 - Gene Matthews
 - 145 - Ren Morris, Tommy Brannen
 - 146 - Ted Meier
 - 147 - William Lewis, Dan Murphy
 - 148 - a-Jett Rich
 - 149 - Don Trahan, Stan Czerno
 - 150 - Bert Seagraves, Toby Chapin
 - 151 - Larry Mowry, Craig Stevens
 - 152 - Lyn Lott
 - 153 - Richard Crawford, Sonny Skinner, Phil Taylor, Kerwin Roberts
 - 154 - Gary Burns
 - 155 - Mike Malone, Mike Noland, Charles Sorrell, Jay Childs
 - 156 - Dave Ayers, Jim Stuart
 - 157 - Jon Stricker, James Mason
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