



JOHN SPINNEY/STAFF

Jon Hough (kneeling) and his caddy, Billy Hill, study the putt on the 18th hole that would clinch the victory at the Atlanta Open Tuesday.

## Hough Wins Second Straight Atlanta Open

By Tom McCollister

Staff Writer

Jon Hough wanted to put his game in overdrive Tuesday. He couldn't, but cruise control was enough to give him his second straight Bridgestone Atlanta Open championship.

Hough won as an amateur last year and was limited to \$350 worth of merchandise. Now an assistant pro at Pinetree Country Club, Hough added a 3-under 69 Tuesday to his opening 67 at Snuffpinger Woods and took home the \$2,000 winner's share of the \$25,000 purse.

He won by two strokes over former PGA Tour regular Lory Lott, who had the day's best round, a 68, after starting with a 70. Dennis Sullivan (69), Alan White (71) and Jim Paschal (71) tied for third at three behind, and Danny Elkins (80) was sixth, five shots back.

Gregg Wolff started the round tied with Hough, but his putter went sour in a round of 76, and he finished seven strokes behind at 148.

Hough became the first player in Atlanta Open history to win one year as an amateur and the next as a professional and the first since Terry Anton in 1979-80 to win back-to-back titles.

On Monday Hough used the par-five holes, which he played in 4-under, to forge his tie for the lead Tuesday. It was the four par-three holes, which he played in 3-under, that delivered the victory.

"Just like Monday, it was solid, consistent and still conservative," Hough said after winning his first pro event. "I wanted to be more aggressive and had the chance. I hit every green but lagged every putt. I made one putt outside 10 feet."

It was a big one. He went to the 17th green with a one-stroke lead over Lott, who had completed his round, and Paschal, who was playing No. 18, then made a 12-foot birdie putt. A routine par at 18 gave

Hough the championship.

Lott, Paschal and Sullivan took their shots at Hough but fell back.

Lott had the lead at 8-under after 13 but bogeyed 14 and 15.

"I just let it get away from me," said Lott. "I don't care how much experience you have or how big the tournament is, the pressure is always there when you have a chance to win."

Paschal was within one after 11 but made triple-bogey six at the par-3 12th after hitting into the lake. He came back with an eagle at 13 and a birdie at 14, but it was too late.

"I thought I had to hit it hard, then let up," said Paschal of his critical mistake at No. 12. "It was a *shank*. There's no other word for such an ugly shot."

Sullivan lost his bid with a disastrous bogey at the 10th, a birdie hole, where he took four shots to get up and down from the right greenside bunker, then bogeyed No. 18.

"I tried to get too cute with my bunker shot," Sullivan said. "I was trying to make birdie and didn't execute."

Wolff took himself out early, bogeying Nos. 2 and 9 on the front and 11, 14 and 15 on the back.

Leadersboards are not displayed in the Open, and Hough said, "I didn't know how I stood when I played the last few holes. I heard at No. 15 that two guys had birdied 16 to go seven-under and were tied with me. After that I didn't hear anything. When I birdied No. 17, I thought I was ahead, but I didn't know."

Hough stood over a three-foot par putt at No. 18 thinking he had to make it to win. "I wanted to yell to folks standing on the hill, 'Does anybody know how I stand!'"

Hough casually rolled in the putt.

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