

GOLF

Wolff shoots 71, captures Atlanta Open by 1 stroke

By Stan Awtrey
Staff writer

Gregg Wolff shot a 71 on Tuesday and finished at 3-under 141 to win the Bridgestone Atlanta Open at Berkeley Hills Country Club in Duluth.

He got a big assist from playing partner Terry Anton.

Wolff, the head pro at Willow Lake Country Club in Metter, watched Anton try and fail to hook a fairway wood into the short par-5 14th hole. That caused Wolff to change his strategy and opt to fade a 2-wood onto the green.

His shot from 230 yards hit on the green and rolled within three inches of the cup. He tapped in for an eagle. That turned out to be the hole that gave Wolff his first Atlanta Open championship.

"I don't think I would have hit the same shot if I hadn't seen Terry hit," said Wolff, who earned a \$3,000 check. "You look back on a tournament and you'll

always see one shot or one hole that makes a difference."

That was enough to give Wolff a one-stroke victory over amateur B.J. DeKreek, who lipped out a seven-foot putt on the final hole to miss a playoff, and James Mason of Dillard.

Wolff, the Georgia Section PGA Player of the Year for five of the last six years, has twice been runner-up in the Atlanta Open. He began the day one shot behind the foursome of DeKreek, amateur Danny Ives and professionals Richard Crawford of Columbus and Robby Watson of Augusta. DeKreek shot a 73.

Crawford, the head pro at Green Island Country Club, appeared to have the upper hand with five holes left. A birdie at No. 14 put him at 4-under. But Crawford bogeyed three of the last four holes and tied for third with Jack Gaudion, last year's runner-up, at 143.

Ives shot a 76 to tie for ninth at 145.

□ Results, F8.

