

LATE TUESDAY: ATLANTA OPEN

Koch throws up, throws down to capture title

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It wasn't Shawn Koch's golf game that was making him vomit.

To the contrary, with a round of 2-under-par 70 on Tuesday at Dunwoody Country Club, Koch earned the Yamaha Atlanta Open title with a 36-hole score of 5-under 139 after suffering from what he suspects was food poisoning the night before.

If Koch, an assistant professional at Country Club of the South, had to play in the morning, he might not have been up to the task. Fortunately for him, the final group, of which he was a member, did not tee off until 2:18 p.m., by which time he had mostly recovered from his upset stomach.

Koch called his sickness "a blessing in disguise" that helped him concentrate, something he said he has struggled with in the past.

"Physically, I was not feeling well," Koch said, who felt fatigued on the back nine. "But I wanted to play within myself and hit the fairways and greens."

Nonetheless, on at least two occasions — after his first shot on the fourth hole and before his tee shot on the ninth hole — he walked into the woods to tend discreetly to his sickness.

With nothing but pretzels and Gatorade in his stomach, he benefited from the weather conditions. Gone were the 90-plus degree temperatures of Monday's round when he shot a 69 to earn a share of the lead after the first day.

Clouds, light winds and cool temperatures prevailed, and Koch made 17 pars and an eagle on the 555-yard par-5 11th — the decisive hole of the match.

He hit his driver to within 225 yards of the center of the green, then a 3-iron to within 20 feet of the hole and sank a putt that broke right to left and celebrated with an enthusiastic full-body fist-pump.

"I had to take advantage of that opportunity and be aggressive," Koch said.

Until then, he spent much of the day tied with Larry Tedesco at 3 under. No. 11 provided the margin of victory.

Tedesco, a former mini-tour player who now has amateur status and plays out of Atlanta Athletic Club, finished as runner-up at 3 under for the tournament.

Danny Elkins of Georgia Golf Center briefly took the lead on the front nine at 4 under, but his three double bogeys caused him to finish 3 over.

Placing third overall at 2-under 142 was Jeff Amershadian of Berkeley Hills Country Club. His eagle on No. 18, one of three for the tournament, gave him a 67, the low round of the two days.

GEORGIA PGA

YAMAHA ATLANTA OPEN

at Dunwoody Country Club

Final Round Leaders

a-amateur

Shawn Koch...	69-70—139	-5
Larry Tedesco-a...	69-72— 141	-3
Jeff Amershadian...	75-67— 142	-2
Brandon Youmans...	75-70—145	1
Sonny Skinner...	74-71— 145	1
Brian Dixon...	73-72— 145	1
Winston Trively...	75- 71— 146	2
Gregg Wolff...	73-73— 146	2
Chan Reeves...	75-72— 147	3
Will Hutter...	74-73— 147	3
Craig Stevens...	73-74— 147	3
Danny Elkins...	77- 77—147	3
David Potts...	74- 74— 148	4
Tim Weinhart...	71- 77— 148	4
Tim Conley...	71- 77— 148	4
Bill Mcdonald...	76- 73— 149	5
Wyatt Detmer...	73- 76— 149	5
Clark Spratlin...	70-79— 149	5
David Hellwege-a...	76- 74— 150	6
Kevin Roman...	78- 72—150	6
Don Williams...	74- 76—150	6