

...walk, we go home.

Baldwin wins Jr. golf title

By Andy Cook

Assistant Sports Editor

Macon's Lee Gerdes came close, but playing on his home golf course proved to be more of a penalty than a bonus.

Gerdes lost six penalty strokes in two days due to lost balls and balls in the water at Macon's tough River North layout — and finished second by a single stroke Thursday in the Georgia Section PGA Junior Golf Championship.

When Wednesday's frontrunners struggled with the heat and dropped out of the picture early, Gerdes made his charge for the lead. But so did Americus' Raymond Baldwin, who shot a 2-under-par 70 for a 145 total to win the title.

Gerdes finished second at 146 after another 70 — despite having two of the four penalty strokes — and Bill McDonald — one of the first-round co-leaders — was third at 148 after a closing 77.

Moultrie's Billy Edwards, the other first-round leader, soared from a 71 to an 81, finishing in sixth at 152.

"I THOUGHT I'd have an advantage here on my home course," said Gerdes, who shot a 69 at River North two weeks ago. "But I just had some bad breaks yesterday and some good

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ones today."

"I just putted good," said Baldwin, who earned a trip to the PGA National Junior Championships in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., in August. "I made some really good 6- and 7-footers when I had to."

Playing the back nine first, Baldwin bogeyed the 10th and 18th holes, and birdied only the 15th, turning at 1-over. The Southland Academy golfer, who was the *Telegraph* and *News* All-Middle Georgia golfer of the year, found his championship on the front nine, running in birdies on Nos. 5, 7 and 8.

"I wasn't really driving that well, but I was putting well," he said. "That's what made my day — putting."

DALTON'S McDONALD, who won

the tournament two years ago and finished second on the final hole last year, had all of his bad breaks Thursday, going from a 70 to a 77.

Edwards lost his chance at winning when he bogeyed the first four holes.

Kim Dean of Carrollton finished fourth by regression with a 148. John Anderson of Bonaire was fifth at 151, and four golfers finished at 152: Bonaire's John Anderson, Edwards, Macon's Robert Jarrard, Savannah's Doug Giorgio and Atlanta's Doug Green. Taylor Smith of Waycross was 10th at 153.

IN BOYS' 14-15 play, Vidalia's Paul Claxton added a 77 to his first-round 76 for a winning total of 153, just beating Dalton's Darrin Fritz. Fritz shot 77 both days for a 154.

Warner Robins' Marcia White shot an 85-81-166 in the girls 12-15 age group

and became the overall winner for the girls, also earning a trip to Palm Beach Gardens for the national tournament.

Georgia PGA Junior Championships

Boys 12-13: Nicky Goetze 71-75-146; Hal Greer 74-74-150; Robb McKelvey 78-73-151; Jay McElrath 72-81-153; Mark Griffin 76-77-153; Phillip Verlander 83-76-159; Coleman Tidwell 82-78-160; John Brown 78-87-156; Kevin Dick 87-79-166; Arnold Swan 94-79-173.

Boys 14-15: Paul Claxton 76-77-153; Darrin Fritz 77-77-154; Chip Schus 77-78-155; Brandt Winslette 79-77-156; Brian Markowitz 78-79-157; Ben Bassett 80-77-157; Chris McIlwain 77-80-157; Kevin Selph 82-75-157; Clay Evans 79-78-157; Robbie Lawler 78-79-157.

Boys 16-17: Raymond Baldwin 75-70-145; Lee Gerdes 74-70-146; Bill McDonald 71-77-148; Kim Dean 73-75-148; John Anderson 73-78-151; Billy Edwards 71-81-152; Doug Giorgio 74-78-152; Robert Jarrard 78-74-152; Doug Green 74-78-152; Taylor Smith 74-79-153.

Girls 12-15: Marcia White 85-81-166; Terri Thompson 85-97-182.

Girls 16-17: Shelly Reynolds 81-88-169.

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