

# Longfellow Holds Off Jones, Despite Final 78 in Amateur



Steve Jones ... Fires final-round 71 at BCC.

By CRAIG HARPER  
Camera Sports Writer

Maybe Gary Longfellow felt sorry for everybody else.

The 36-year-old airline co-pilot from Lakewood had owned the Colorado Golf Association Stroke Play Championship for the first three days at the Boulder Country Club, firing rounds of 65, 67 and 68 while rocketing to an imposing 11-shot lead heading into Sunday's final round.

But then, as they say, a funny thing happened ...

You'd have thought Longfellow was playing the final five holes in the U.S. Open at Cherry Hills Country Club; his hot streak turned to ice and the former Colorado Open champion slipped to a seven-over-par 78.

Meanwhile, Steve Jones, a 19-year-old sophomore-to-be at the University of Colorado nearly slid into the winner's circle.

That's "nearly," because for Jones to have won outright, he would have had to shoot a 66, which, of course, he didn't. Instead, Jones settled for a one-over 71 on a day when the pin placements were so demanding that Bill Loeffler was the only player to break par with a 69.

Still, Jones made up seven shots on Longfellow, who finished the tournament with a 72-hole total of 278, two below par. Jones, whose highest round was a 73 on Friday, wound up four shots back at 282, a full three strokes ahead of Loeffler.

Actually, Jones was just four behind with nine holes to go, having watched Longfellow struggle to a seven-over 42 on the front nine.

But that's when Longfellow toughened up a bit, perhaps thinking he was Andy North for the day. Longfellow made a miraculous par on the 10th hole and Jones never could cut into the lead the rest of the way. They both made pars through 12 and then Jones missed the 13th green and took a bogey while Longfellow got his par. Jones regained the stroke on 16 when Longfellow's approach landed right under the lip of a sand trap and he took a bogey, and they both parred the final two holes.

"He held in there and didn't give up," said Jones, a fierce competitor who was much more expressive on the course than the more methodical and more experienced Longfellow.

## Leaders' Cards

Par out	453 443 444 — 35
Longfellow out	454 454 455 — 42
S. Jones out	443 434 454 — 35
Par in	435 443 444-35-35—70 (280)
Longfellow in	435 443 544-42-38—78 (278)
S. Jones in	435 543 444-35-36—71 (282)

"Oh, yea, I'm disappointed with today's play — I sure am," Longfellow said. "I played lousy, especially on the front nine. But I'm glad I at least got something back there (on the back nine)."

Longfellow admitted the 10th hole was probably the turning point.

As he had been doing most of the day, Longfellow hit his tee shot left and caught a fairway sand trap. Jones, who drove down the middle, knocked his approach about 25 feet away and all Longfellow could do was place his second shot short of the green.

But then Longfellow chipped to within one foot and made his par to remain four-up instead of just three-up with eight holes left.

"That chip was the first good shot I'd hit in a long time," Longfellow said. "Then I hit a good three-iron on the next hole (a par-3) and that kind of settled me down."

"After the turn I had gone from 11 ahead to four, and that's not too good. Then you get to wondering, and you've got to start making pars."

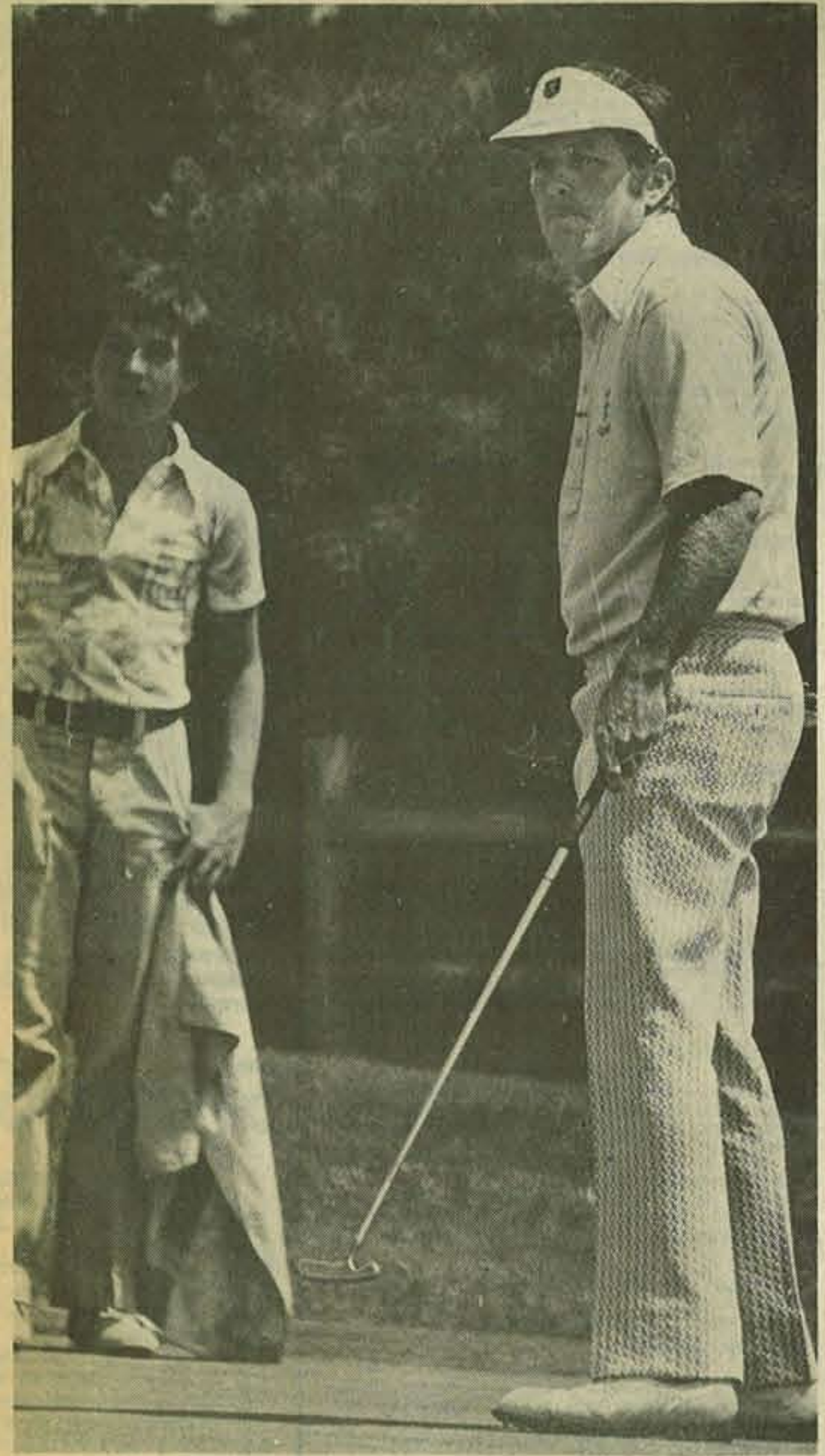
Jones, of course, felt he had a chance to win the tournament after the front nine, but said, "Nothing would drop, so I couldn't do anything about it. I like to play with the leader. They didn't do it last year and I didn't know where I stood. Maybe that was my problem." Jones led last year by two shots heading into the final round but was surpassed by John Olive and lost by two shots, tying Longfellow for second.

Mostly, Jones found himself in contention because of Longfellow's problems.

After two routine pars on 1 and 2, Longfellow three-putted 3 from the back fringe for a bogey and then went six-over on the final five.

He went over the green on 4, three-putted from 50 feet on 5, hooked his drive on 6 into a creek and took a double-bogey,

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Gary Longfellow ... Falters in final round, but holds on for crown.

Camera Staff Photo by VERN WALKER

## Longfellow

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hit a tree some 45 yards from the eighth tee and made bogey and overshot the ninth green for yet another 5.

Jones, who birdied 2 from three feet and 5 from 20 to fall eight behind, lost chances to really pick up strokes when he, too, bogeyed the par-3 sixth and the par-4 eighth.

"It's really funny," Longfellow said later. "I've been driving so well all week and then I lost it. I started hooking, which is confounding because when I lose it, I usually go right."

The two three-putt greens on the front nine were also unusual for Longfellow, who only had one in the first three rounds.

But most of the players were amazed by the pin placements, which were usually on sloping portions of the greens.

"The pin placements being what they were, you could get to 15 feet and not really have a birdie putt," Longfellow explained. "If you charged it, you could go six-to-eight feet past. Carter (Mathies) and I were saying it reminded us of Hiwan."

"The main characteristic of these pin placements was that they were on the parts of the greens that sloped away from the center, and if you hit downhill from the hole, there's no telling where the ball might bounce. When they put the pins in places like that, you become conscious; you can three-putt a few early and lose it. It was even tough to save par from three or four feet."

Added Jones, "I never got in position for a straight uphill putt."

Longfellow, who won this title in 1974 and also won the match-play and Colorado Open championships, will not be able to duplicate that feat this year because he won't play in the match-play. "I don't like the idea of going out and trying to beat one person; I like to play the course," he said.

For a while, though, Longfellow was almost involved in match-play Sunday. "I was too busy trying to find out what I was doing wrong," he said. "It's funny how for three days you can go so good, then it changes in 24 hours."

Although Jones finished as the runner-up for the second straight year, he was still happy because, "I wanted to hold on to second, and I did."

Mathies, who began the day one shot behind Jones, was in the running, too, until he took a triple-bogey 7 on 9, knocking his drive out of bounds and hitting his second into a trap. Mathies finished with a 75 and a 287 total, two behind Loeffler.

## State Amateur

- 278 — Gary Longfellow (65-67-68-78).
- 282 — Steve Jones (67-73-71-71).
- 285 — Bill Loeffler (71-71-74-80).
- 287 — Carter Mathies (67-74-71-75).
- 290 — Tom Lee (77-71-70-72).
- 291 — Tom Woodard (72-71-77-71).
- 292 — Mark Crabtree (74-75-72-71), Chris Nordling (74-75-72-71), Rich McClintock (73-73-70-76).
- 293 — Randy Fisk (71-76-72-74), Mike Mulhern (72-72-77-72).
- 294 — Ray Pierson (73-72-72-77), Les Fowler (71-71-77-76), John Hamer (75-71-74-74).
- 295 — Dave Lee (76-71-77-71), Scott Lane (70-72-80-73), Gregg Jones (78-72-71-74).
- 296 — Mike Pulnam (75-75-74-72).
- 297 — Paul Brown (79-71-74-73), Rick Petri (76-69-70-82).
- 298 — Terry Kahl (78-72-72-76), Mike Mathies (72-70-74-82).
- 299 — Terry Byrnes (73-79-73-74), Larry Maurer (72-72-73-77), Ritchie Strauss (73-73-75-78), Jim Gaona (76-71-74-78).
- 301 — Tad Polumbus (78-72-75-76), Dave Schey (78-71-73-78), Bill Bartell (77-73-73-78).
- 302 — Pete Bloomer (77-75-75-75).
- 303 — Jerry Overgaard (72-72-77-76), Pat Eggeling (71-73-82-77), Mike Adams (81-68-74-78), Jeff Reich (73-75-77-78), Bob Smith (77-71-76-79).
- 304 — Steve Kerr (77-76-78-73), Scott Walker (80-72-76-76), Vic Geisler (76-75-78-75), Bill Waggener (73-75-78-78), Marty Javors (77-73-74-80).
- 305 — Mark Fowler (80-74-76-75).
- 306 — Bob Stallman (75-78-78-75), Jim Ferguson (75-79-77-75), Dean Sessions (73-80-73-80).
- 307 — Matt English (74-78-80-75).
- 308 — Ron Chase (77-76-77-78).
- 309 — John Hicks (72-81-79-77), Larry Bisdorf (78-75-78-78), Jim Rozmiarek (72-76-78-83), Bert Weiz (73-76-75-85).
- 310 — Rick DeWitt (78-72-82-78).
- 313 — Rick Uhler (72-82-79-80).
- 314 — Gary Polfer (74-77-83-78), Sid Micek (73-79-80-82).
- 316 — Jim Fair (81-83-82-80).
- 317 — Jack Boyd (77-75-85-80).
- 320 — J.C. Pappadakis (78-76-84-82).
- 322 — Gary Pageau (78-75-84-85).
- 325 — Eric Hoos (76-78-88-83).

Next came CU's Tom Lee at 290 after a 72 and ex-Buff Tom Woodard at 291 after a 71. Both had one bad round, a 77.

Another former Buff, Mark Crabtree, carded his best round, a 71, and finished in a three-way tie for seventh at 292 with Chris Nordling (71) and Rich McClintock (76). Mike Mulhern, an ex-CUer, tied Randy Fisk at 293 after a 72.

The Boulder Country Club contingent stayed together, with Ray Pierson (final 77), Les Fowler (78) and John Hamer (74) deadlocked at 294. Larry Maurer dropped to 299 with a 77, Pete Bloomer shot a third 75 for 302, Dean Sessions had a second 80 for 306 and Sid Micek carded an 82 for 314.

CU's Terry Kahl was in at 298 with a 76, Longmont's Dave Schey had a 77 for 301, Lake Valley's Jeff Reich had a 78 for 303, ex-Buff Vic Geisler shot 75 for 304 while Broomfield's Steve Kerr and Flatirons' Marty Javors were also at 304 after a 73 and 80, Mark Fowler of Longmont was one behind them after a 75, Boulder High coach Rick Uhler shot an 80 for 313 and Flatirons' Eric Hoos had an 83 for 325.