

Hobbs wins in the wind

By Phil Roche, Staff Writer
Inside SOCAL

Dust swirled around golfers' eyes, flagsticks blew out of their holes and lay on greens, golf carts shook.

Santa Ana winds roared through El Prado on Sunday at upwards of 40 mph, as Aaron Hobbs, the defending champ, hung on, fired off pin-point drives, and shot a steady 75 at Chino Creek.

With Hobbs' "hanging-in-there round" amidst the windstorm and a brilliant 67 on Saturday, the Ontario resident won his second consecutive City of Chino Championship.

Hobbs, 21, had opened the sixth annual Chino showdown by firing a 5-under-round, devoid of bogeys, at Butterfield Stage. He completed 36 holes at 142, two-under-par, the only player in the field to break par.

Steve Gibson, Orange (69-75), and John Mack, Alta Loma (71-73), tied for second at even par 144. Tied for fourth with 146 were Eric Fekin, Victorville (73-73), Guy Livesay, Orange (71-75), and Gianni Sacilotto, Walnut (71-75).

One stroke back at 147 were Frank Zuniga, Lake Elsinore (71-76), Aaron Levine, Irvine (72-75), and George Andrews, Tustin (76-71).

Hobbs, who is beginning his senior year at California State Northridge, is no stranger to winning. He won two individual league championships while playing for Chino High, was named 2006 Foothill Conference Player of the Year while playing for Mt. San Antonio College's state championship team, and last August won the Victorville City Championship with rounds of 70-72 at Green Tree Golf Course.

"I hit my drives at El Prado almost perfectly," Hobbs said Tuesday. "My birdie putts on Saturday were all within 20 feet.

"The wind was bad on Sunday, but I got through the windy front nine with a 38, which was pretty good, I thought."

At least 30 players in the Championship flight skied into the 80s on Sunday with El Prado club champ Billy Mouw shooting 70 at Butterfield, then a struggling 80 on Sunday, unheard of for Billy.

Maybe Valley Senior champ Joe Ayala, 52, of Rialto, who shot even par 72 on Saturday, had the right idea.

"Joe came out early Sunday morning," said tournament director Pat McArdle, "took one look at the wind blowing everything around, and said 'this isn't my day.' He packed up his clubs and drove home.

"As for me, my golf cart shook at times, and that takes a strong wind to shake my cart," said the husky McArdle.

El Prado starter and tournament official Bill Jones summed up the weather late Sunday, "It had to be blowing over 40 miles an hour. It started early in the morning and didn't let up until 4 o'clock. A 75 was a great score for the winner (Hobbs)."

Former Mt. SAC player Sacilotto, who finished tied for fourth, said, "The wind blew several flagsticks out of the hole, and we had to be careful over putts because the balls on the greens were shaking, ready to be blown away."

In A flight action, Brian Dancses, Huntington Beach (65-74-139 net) tied for first with Johnny Mansfield, Tehachapi (69-70-139).

Third place went to Patrick Loy, Upland (67-75-142). The A flight, along with the Championship flight, played Butterfield Stage on Saturday and Chino Creek Sunday.

Jonas Cikotas, Ladera Ranch (69-70-139 net), won the B flight.

Tied for second with 140 were Tak Takahashi, San Diego (67-73) and Dave Lorenz, Corona.

The C flight champ was Louis Washington, La Palma (68-71-139).

Rob Morelian, Rancho Cucamonga (73-69-142), placed second, while tied for third at 143 were Bob Liese, Chino Hills (74-69), Jim Edie, Santa Ana (71-72), and Bob Toledo, Chino (69-74).

Rick Lamborn of Chino (65-62-127) nailed first place in the D flight. Chino's Tom Lang (68-67-135) tied for runner-up with Martin Maqueo of Anaheim (64-71-135).

Anabel Kiely, Anaheim (73-73-146), won the Women's flight net.

Former South Hills High School player, Chris Anderson of Covina, started out beautifully in the Nationwide's Mark Christopher Charity Classic last week at Empire Lakes with a wondrous 7-under par 64.

Could Chris win it all? We hoped he could.

But, alas, golf is fickle. Anderson followed his 64 with rounds of 73, 75 and 73 for a 285 total. He settled for \$1,650 instead of the winner's 94,500 which went to Richard Johnson (273).

Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center will be represented by several sports medicine experts in the second annual Southern California Fall Golf Show, Oct. 25-28 at the Pomona Fairplex.

The medical and sports authorities from the hospital will provide swing analyses and tips to help golfers with aches and pains.

The hospital's Get Well program features avid golfer and physical therapist Marti Kunishima, who will be available at the golf show all three days to offer strength and conditioning suggestions.

Sierra Lakes Golf Club in Fontana will play host to the first Easter Seals tournament Monday, a benefit event for local children and adults with disabilities. The scramble tournament is presented by Century 21 King Realty.

The \$150 entry includes golf, cart, dinner, prizes, refreshment, and awards for longest drive and closest to the pin. A new car will be given for a hole in one on a designated hole.

Registration begins at 11a.m., and a shotgun start is set for 1p.m. For more information, call Bonita Carr at (714) 834-1111.