

Was this a Citrus finale?

By LARRY GUEST and BOB FOWLER
Special Star

The second Florida Lady Citrus Open at Rio Pinar Country Club has ended, leaving some wondering if there will be a third in 1981.

After all, attendance for Sunday's final round was 10,250, boosting the tournament total to about 22,000, or some 8,000 less than witnessed last year's inaugural event.

Tournament chairman Herman Dixon said, regarding the decision to have another LPGA affair at Rio Pinar, "We'll have to take it to the general membership."

He added that some members don't care to have the women pros return, "But that's no more than 10 percent."

While attendance was lower, early financial indications are that the 24 tournament sponsors won't have to repeat their efforts of 1979 when they had to ante up \$2,000 each to make up a deficit.

Certainly, LPGA members, especially the veterans, appeared to appreciate the efforts of the Rio Pinar volunteers.

On tees and greens and in scoring tents, pros like Marlene Floyd, JoAnne Carner and Judy Rankin took time to personally thank club members who had donated their time and services to the event.

In other words, they left with a touch of class.

Round after round during the tournament, Donna White told reporters she was "hitting the ball better than I've hit it all year." Statistics proved her point.

White, although only 5-foot-2, proved to be a big hitter on the scoreboard by making 17 birdies during the 72-hole event.

Only Janet Coles and Pat Meyers managed to tie White in that category.

Coles finished in a tie with Sandra Palmer for third place, two shots behind White, while Meyers was fifth.

The winner of the weekly putting contest was Jane Renner, who had only 105 during the four rounds. That enabled her to tie for 10th place.

And what do the four receive for their feats? A case of Scotch, a new putter and a pendant.

While others were up and down during their four rounds, Lynn Adams, a third-year pro from Kingsville, Tex., continued to be the most consistent player in the tournament.

She posted a 35-37 round Sunday for her fourth straight 72 and a four-under-par 288 total. That allowed her to tie Gail Hirata of Japan and rookie Carolyn Hill for seventh place.

White was almost as consistent with rounds of 70-73-70-70 for her winning 283 total.

And, perhaps due to the gusty winds that prevailed during Sunday's final round, she tied for the day's best score.

Only Cathy Morse, Kathy McMullen and Jane Blalock were able to also card 70s. Morse finished at 299, McMullen at 290 and Blalock a shot away from at least tying for the title she won last year at 284.



Janet Coles does a little celebrating after scoring a birdie on the 18th hole.

Bobby Cohen/Sentinel Star



White blasts from a sand trap.

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