



Associated Press

Janet Coles yelled as her putt on the sixth green dropped in for a birdie yesterday in the

final round of the Lady Michelob tournament. She triumphed by six strokes.

Graham rallies to 5-shot win; Coles fires 69, cruises by six

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David Graham stepped to the first tee at The Woodlands Country Club yesterday, knocked the ball on the green and two putted for a birdie.

"Then I said 'stick that in your ear' and went on with the rest of the round," said Graham, who erased the memory of a quadruple-bogey nine on the hole a day earlier and charged to a five-stroke victory in the \$400,000 Houston Open.

Graham's revenge against the par-five, 546-yard No. 1 hole started an amazing rally from five shots off the pace and gave him his first tour victory since a dramatic rally to win the 1981 U.S. Open.

"I kept telling my caddy it would be a hard pill to swallow if I got beat by one or two strokes," Graham said. "It was nobody's fault but mine, and I just had to put it out of my mind and go on with the rest of the tournament.

Graham went into the final round tied for eighth place.

"The key to my round today were the pars I made at No. 3 and No. 8," Graham said. "I made an eight-foot putt for a par at No. 3 which could have turned the whole thing around.

"The par at 8 was important because it was down wind and I missed the green."

Graham's amazing charge left in its wake fading gallery favorite Lee Trevino, who started the day one shot off the lead, and third-day leader Doug Tewell. Graham had seven birdies and had no bogeys in his sterling final round.

Graham birdied the No. 1 hole

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that had cost him so dearly on Saturday, took the lead with a birdie on No. 10 and reeled off three straight birdies at Nos. 14, 15 and 16.

Graham finished with a nine-under-par 275 total for the 72 holes.

Trevino, bidding to win his first tournament in two years, faded to a final-round 73 but birdied the 17th hole to finish in a three-way tie for second place.

Lee Elder, who started the day at two under par, fired a final-round 69, and Jim Thorpe shot a final-round 70 and were at 280 with Trevino 280.

The victory was worth \$72,000 for Graham and gave the Dallas resident his first tour victory since he charged from three strokes off the pace to win the 1981 Open in what has been described as the best round in U.S. Open history.

LPGA — Janet Coles fired a steady three-under-par 69 and was never seriously challenged as she captured the \$150,000 Lady Michelob tournament at Roswell, Ga., by a six-shot margin.

The 28-year-old Californian had a 10-under-par 206 total on the 6,123-yard Brookfield West Golf and Country Club course.

Coles' lead never dwindled below two shots.

"I didn't really feel relaxed until after 15," she said.

It was on the 15th that she sank her second birdie putt of the round

from off the green, a 20-footer that built the lead to six shots.

Sandra Post finished second with a 72 for 212.

Coles, who gained her only other pro victory in this event in 1978, said, "This means more than the first one.

"The last six tournaments I've been in contention every week, then finally I won," she said. "It is good for my confidence."

The victory, second of her career, was worth \$22,500 for Coles and jumped her from 13th into eighth place on this season's money list with \$65,132.

Her 206 total was a record for the sixth Ladies Professional Golf Association event at Brookfield West, breaking by one shot the mark set by Kathy Whitworth last year.

FRENCH OPEN — Britain's Nick Faldo won the \$70,000 tournament on the third hole of a sudden-death playoff at Versailles. Faldo earned \$13,800 for his first European victory on the par-72 La Boule course.

Jose Maria Canizares of Spain, conceded the third playoff hole and the victory to Faldo when he hooked off the tee, then played into an impossible lie in the bushes. Canizares had missed a short putt on the second playoff hole that would have won the tournament.

Britain's David Russell, who also was involved in the playoff, wound up third.

All three players finished the regulation 72 holes at 11-under-par 277. Faldo and Russell had final-round 69s, while Canizares had a 67.

Spain's Severiano Ballesteros, the defending champion, finished one shot back at 278 after a 71.