

# Dan FOSTER

## 'I may have played my last' pro round

Everybody in our fivesome knew we were less than spectacular in that women's pro-am golf tournament at Furman Tuesday. We gave a new definition to "am." We had to make a couple of good putts to tie for last.

Still it was a shock when Barbara Barrow, our touring pro partner, said after the round that she'd had enough. Forever.

The other touring pros here were going on to Portsmouth for the next tournament, but she said she was going home to San Diego. When would she rejoin the tour? She said probably never.



Foster

If we'd known that we'd have played better. I told her I wish she wouldn't take it so hard. Told her she shouldn't let one pro-am with a lot of bad breaks end her whole career.

We were probably winning it until the second or third hole.

But her mind was set. And that's too bad. You don't want, ever, to be on the team the day a pro golfer decides there's got to be a better way. It's a scar you could carry the rest of your life. It's like Mickey Owen dropping that third strike in the World Series. Or dropping the winning pass in the end zone. Why us?

She said Tuesday's round didn't do it. She was nice, and seemed sincere, even pleasant. She said her heart just wasn't in golf any more. Said she thought she'd go back home and start a new career.

This year hasn't been good for her and last year was worse. It just hasn't all turned out the way it looked like it would when she was at San Diego State, where she was a Phi Beta Kappa graduate with an English major in 1977. That's the same year Betsy King, who started the pro-am event here, was graduated from Furman.

Barrow had won the National Collegiate women's title in 1975 and finished second in 1976 and '77 before she joined the tour.

Four years ago she won one tournament, made over \$46,000, ranked 26th in the money listings and was a success. But last year she made only \$4,087, and Wednesday LPGA Headquarters said this year, for nine tournaments, she'd made only \$3,398, while 112 women had made more.

## May change

Even staying free in private homes of host club members, that isn't enough.

Doing that and driving from stop to stop, she said, it still costs \$400 or \$500 a week, including at least \$200 a week for caddies, for the women to stay on the tour.

But the money has been a result of a deeper cause, Barrow said, as she put her clubs away from what she considered may be "my last competitive round."

There is a suggestion of burn-out. It doesn't have to affect all to affect some.

"I've been playing golf 19 years," she continued, "and I think I want to do something else right now. Then again, after a couple of weeks at home, I might decide I want to come back out on tour.

"I think the desire is missing. You have to have desire and discipline and determination, and I don't have those three ingredients right now.

"I think if I continued to play, I might have a better year than last year, but my heart's not in it. I've gotta go home and see if I want to do something else, or if I just need to take a break. I think a lot of players right now are experiencing the same thing I am."

She said Janet Coles, who won \$110,000 last year and was 12th on the money list, is cutting back on her play, because, "she just doesn't have the desire right now.

"I've played it since I was 10 years old. I come from a climate where I can play it all year around, and when I was going to school, I concentrated on getting grades and doing other things. Now, for the last seven years, I've been just playing golf fulltime, and I think I'm just tired of it right now."

There's a matter of self-esteem, which she described: "It's no fun to stay out there when you can't win. I don't want to go out there and just barely survive. I want to be very successful, and I think I can be successful in another realm of life.

"I would like to use my mind for a change, and that's why I'm looking toward business or law school."