

Crandall is leader in NCAA

By RICHARD SINK

Special to the Democrat

COLUMBUS, Ohio — For the third year in a row, Todd Crandall is his college's only representative in the NCAA tournament and he insists that's the loneliest experience in golf.

Well, by midday Wednesday, the Florida State senior was drawing gobs of attention all around the Ohio State University Golf Course. The cause of the commotion was a three-under-par 69 that led the first day of the rain-interrupted tournament. Quincy's Ben Duncan, playing for Florida, was well back with a 74.

"It makes it harder not having a team here," Crandall explained. "I've missed the cut the last two years, and being the only guy here from school makes it tougher on you to do well. Other guys make the cut because their team did and they have gone on to finish high.

"It's lonelier. Everybody else has got somebody rooting for you, four guys rooting for you, four guys you can't let down. My way, you can get sloppy.

Crandall had to guard against that when he took the tee at noon today for the second 18 holes. He's one of 38 individual entries and one jump ahead of four 70-shooters — Bob Byman of defending team champion and first-day leader Wake Forest, Lindy Miller of 18-hole runnerup Oklahoma State, Vance Heafner of N.C. State and Craig Carson of host Ohio State.

Crandall feels right at home when he plays the Buckeyes' Scarlet Course. He's a native Ohioan who has toured the layout often, helping to erase his "loneliness".

"I'm comfortable playing this course. I've played three high school tournaments here and I've played the Western Junior here and other tournaments," he said. "I like to play here."

Crandall liked it well enough on his first hole to stop an approach shot eight inches from the cup for a cinch birdie three. Having started on the backside, Crandall picked up a second birdie three with an eight-foot putt at 16, but then he played the role of the "lonely drifter".

He missed the green on the 210-yard 17th, then drove far left and then far right on the par-four 18th and first holes. Each resulted in bogeys. "I started getting on the train after being two-under and then I paid for it," he said.

Crandall exited the bogey express with a par four at No. 2. A driver and three-wood led to a two-putt birdie from 40 feet at the 520-yard fourth, and a one-iron left him a 12-foot birdie putt at the 235-yard fifth. A two-putt for a par five at the 575-yard seven was followed by putts of 1½ and 12 feet for birdie threes at seven and nine.

"I hit my irons really well," said the lanky redhead. "I'd been putting terrible but I made a few putts today."

Duncan, the fourth man for pre-tourney co-favorite Florida, shot a 74 that was one of the Gators' four counting scores, No. 1 man Andy Bean's 79 being the exception. No. 2 man Phil Hancock and No. 5 Bob Bailey had 73s to pace Florida, which is nine strokes behind Wake Forest and three back of Oklahoma State.

Two of the players leaving Crandall insecure are Walker Cup and Wake Forest teammates Curtis Strange and Jay Haas, each at 71. Crandall is quite familiar with Strange, who beat him in the fourth round of this year's North and South Amateur. After winning the tourney, Strange called his match with Crandall his most feared of the week.

"In the North-South I birdied five of the first 11 holes against him and was one down," said Crandall. "I made six birdies and lost, 3-2. I was playing good that week and that shows how good Strange and those guys are."

Crandall finishes 8th in NCAA golf

By RICHARD SINK

Special To The Democrat

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Todd Crandall ran in his last collegiate putt, a 50-footer for a birdie three, but the Florida State senior wasn't satisfied with his par 72 for the round or his eighth place finish for the NCAA tournament.

He was two under par for the final 18 holes until he bogeyed the 14th, 16th and 17th holes of the Ohio State Scarlet Course. His closing birdie got him in at 292, four over par for the four-round duration and 10 behind winner Jay Haas of Wake Forest. Haas won by one over U.S. Am champ Jerry Pate of Alabama.

"I would have taken 292 before the tournament, but I thought it would play harder the first days," the Ashtabula, Ohio, resident. "I thought I had a good chance to win here, this being my home country. I know this course real well.

Quincy's Ben Duncan finished with an 80 for 309 and his Florida team finished a disappointing tenth, 50 strokes back of repeat winner Wake Forest's 1156. That won by 33 over Oklahoma State and 34 over Southern Cal and Alabama.

Crandall could take consolation in his putting. "This spring I'd go around in at least two to three three-putts a round," he said. "I went through a really bad seige of putting, and I'm happy about not three-putting but once here."

That one three-putt came on the 510-yard 14th hole in the final round. "Lawas so mad about leaving my 50-yard pitch shot 20 feet of the hole and not getting other putts to the hole that I got mad and hit my putt three feet by," said Crandall.

He then flew the green at 16 with his second shot and hit his tee shot on the 210-yard 17th into a trap.

Duncan finished with a bogey on the last hole for his 81. "I closed out my college career with a blast," said Duncan sarcastically.

His teammates — Phil Hancock, who shot 76 for 7th at 291, Andy Bean, who shot 71 for 300, Dennis Sullivan, who shot 79 for 308, and Bob Bailey, who shot 82 for 307 — were just as disappointed for the squad's sake.

"We've had more than our share of sucess," said Duncan, "and they can't take away the one we won in '73, but we won't get any more. There's only one team best in the nation and we thought we were them, but this week proved otherwise.

"We had a meeting last night and we felt eighth was better than ninth (which the Gators were after 54 holes). I tried every shot. I didn't want to shoot 81, but I wouldn't say I was exactly pumped up."

NCAA

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Here are the top 20 finishers in the 72-hole NCAA Golf Championship over the par-72, 7,120-yard Ohio State University Scarlet course:

Jay Haas, Wake Forest	71-72-69-70—282
Jerry Pate, Alabama	74-71-68-70—283
Curtis Strange, Wake Frst	71-72-74-67—284
Lindy Miller, Okla. St.	70-75-70-70-75—290
Bob Byman, Wake Forest	70-74-73-73—290
Tom Jones, Okla. St.	73-70-70-77—290
Phil Hancock, Florida	73-73-69-76—291
Craig Stadler, USC	77-69-72-74—292
Todd Crandall, Fla. St.	69-77-74-72—292
Peter Jacobsen, Oregon	71-74-74-73—292
Mike Brannen, BYU	72-74-71-74—293
Craig Carbon, Ohio St.	70-71-72-81—294
Randy Simmons, Texas	76-70-74-74—294
Stan Lee, LSU	71-77-74-73—295
Bob Ackerman, Indiana	72-72-76-75—295
Mike Reid, BYU	71-74-76-75—296
Skeeter Heath, E. Tenn.	77-76-71-72—296
Mark Lye, San Jose St.	71-78-74-73—296
Keith Fergus, Houston	74-76-72-74—296
Mike Peck, Stanford	72-79-73-72—296