

**From the Tallahassee Democrat**  
**March 31, 1977**  
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## FSU is second in golf tourney

Special to the Democrat

CAPE CORAL — Florida State trailed University of Florida by one shot (286-287) after the first round of the 72-hole Intercollegiate Golf Classic.

FSU's Benny Hepler had a share of the individual lead after shooting a two-under-par 70 with Tom Cleaver of South Florida.

Kenny Knox and Chip Curley of FSU had even par rounds of 72.

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## FSU golfers trail Gators

Special to the Democrat

CAPE CORAL — Florida State's golf team dropped seven strokes back of front-running Florida in the second round of the Cape Coral Invitational here Thursday afternoon.

The Seminoles trailed by just one stroke after the first of the four rounds, but UF stretched the lead out today with a 284 team total. FSU shot a 291.

FSU's Benny Hepler held on to second place in the individual competition with a par 72 Thursday. He trails Florida's Sam Traham by five strokes.

Chip Curly is in fourth place with a 143 total after shooting a 71 today. Other Seminoles scores were Rick Fletcher 74, Kenny Knox 74, Jim Crowley 78 and Rick Jeffers 80.

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## FSU grabs golf lead

Special to the Democrat

CAPE CORAL — Florida State's golf team rallied from eight strokes off the pace Friday and took a two-shot lead into today's final round of the 13th annual GAC Cape Coral Intercollegiate golf classic.

The Seminoles, with Kenny Knox and Chip Curley shooting two-under-par 70s, had a team total of 285 for the round and now stand at 864 after three days.

The University of Florida, leader after each of the first two rounds, had a 295 and is two shots back of the Seminoles. Miami is third with an 882 total.

Florida's Sam Traham is the individual leader with a 209 total. He shot even par Friday. Curley is second at 213, Benny Hepler third with 215 and Knox shares fourth at 216.

## Knox finishes second

# FSU wins golf again

Special to the Democrat

CAPE CORAL — Defending champion Florida State played even with Florida in the final round Saturday to win the 13th Annual Cape Coral Invitational Golf Tournament.

The Seminoles had led by a stroke early in the tourney, but fell behind by eight in the second round before staging a comeback.

FSU wound up with a four-day team total of 1155, two strokes better than the Gators' 1157.

It was Kenny Knox who led the way for the Seminoles in a dogfight

that went right to the 18th green. Knox earned low individual honors for the second straight day with a one-under 71 on the windy course, and ended with a 287 total, topped only by Florida's Sam Trahan at 281.

"I've never been prouder of a team in my life," said a delighted Coach Don Veller, who added gleefully, "We beat the Gators!"

Helping FSU to a final-day 291 was Rick Fletcher who "borrowed Knox' putter" to register an outstanding 72 for a 300 total.

Denny Hepler shot a 75 Saturday,

and was third overall with a 290 total. The fourth FSU score Saturday came from Richard Jeffers, who fired a one-over 73 on the way to a 299 total.

Jim Crowley shot a 79 Saturday and finished at 301 while Jim Curley had his poorest round, an 81, to wind up at 294.

The Seminoles had to outdistance 19 schools from 10 states to repeat as champs, and it was only the third time in 13 years the Seminoles have clinched the title.

Far behind FSU and UF was third-place Middle Tennessee at 1183, followed by Jacksonville at 1185. Miami placed a distant eighth with a 1193 team total.

For the entire four days, FSU's total was only three over par, a fine showing for the first tournament of the season.

The next big event for the hot Seminoles is the Houston All-American which comes up in a couple of weeks.