

FSU golfer disqualified in Schenkel

From Democrat staff and wire reports

STATESBORO, Ga. — Florida State University golfer Paul Downes is "the talk of the tournament" after Friday's first round of the Chris Schenkel Intercollegiate Invitational golf competition.

Downes didn't tear up the course with a blistering sub-par opening round. In fact, Downes didn't even start the back nine after playing several strokes under par on the front nine.

"On the seventh green, Paul hit a ball into the bushes," FSU golf coach Don Veller explained. "He found what he thought was his Titleist 4 (ball) and continued playing until the ninth tee when he washed it and found out it didn't say FSU on the cover.

"Paul looked over to his partners and said, 'That's it, guys, I'm disqualified.' Collegiate rules state that if a golfer discovers he has played only one hole with the wrong ball he gets a two-stroke penalty, but if he plays more than one hole he must disqualify himself.

"Paul could've lied or he could've ignored it," Veller said, "but he's an honest guy and there was no doubt to him what he had to do. It has made him the talk of the tournament."

One rival coach commented: "You have to admire Paul for the way he handled the situation. No tournament is worth your integrity."

Downes' disqualification left the defending Schenkel champs with only four players, forcing Veller to use all their scores instead of the best four of five. Partly as a result, FSU is in 18th place with two rounds to go.

The University of Florida took the first-round lead with a team score of 286, two strokes ahead of second-place Clemson. Wake Forest's Greg Hallberg took the individual lead with a four-under-par 68, one shot ahead of Mark Calcavecchia of Florida.

Trailing Florida and Clemson, in order, were Georgia Southern, Oklahoma State, Georgia, Centenary, South Carolina, Louisiana State, Tennessee and Wake Forest.

FSU golfers move up in Schenkel tourney

STATESBORO, Ga. — Playing a man short, Florida State's golf team still managed to surge from 18th to seventh place at the Chris Schenkel Intercollegiate Invitational here Saturday.

Georgia Southern leads the tournament with a 574 total, followed by Oklahoma State (575), Florida (577), LSU (584), North Carolina State (586), Clemson (587) and Florida State (589).

The Seminoles are playing with a four-man team rather than the usual five because Paul Downes disqualified himself during Friday's opening round for playing the wrong ball.

Rafael Alarcon of Oklahoma State leads the individual standings with a 75-65—140 total. FSU's Steven Keppler is among a group of six at tied at 143.

Also for Florida State, Jeff Sluman has a 144, Grant Turner a 149 and Marcus Beck a 159.

FSU golfers tie for 10th in Schenkel

STATESBORO, Ga. — Florida State finished tied for 10th with Louisiana State Sunday in the Chris Schenkel Invitational Golf tournament.

The title went to Oklahoma State, which won on the first hole of a play-off with Florida. Oklahoma State and Florida finished with 862 totals before starting the playoff.

FSU and LSU finished with 886 totals.

Georgia Southern was third in the tournament while East Tennessee State and Wake Forest tied for fourth.

FSU scores Sunday included Jeff Sluman's 74-218, good enough for 13th place.

Steven Keppler was 17th at 76-219. Also for the Seminoles, Grant Turner shot a 73-222, while Marcus Beck had a 79-238.