

TAMPA (AP)—Jack Veghte of Clearwater clipped two strokes off par Saturday to take the lead in the Gasparilla Invitational Golf Championship at Palma Ceia Course.

Playing with a consistency that eluded most of the contenders, Veghte carded a 68 for a two-stroke advantage.

He combined 16 pars and two birdies in the first round of the rain-shortened 36-hole medal play tournament.

Downing Gray of Florida State University and Bill Tise of Winston Salem, N.C., tied for second with par 70s.

Frank Beard of the University of Florida, Wayne Timberman of Florida State and Harry Root Jr., of Tampa, carded 71s for fourth.

Defending champion Paul Tarnow Jr. fired a 74 to be pushed down in the field of 170 entries.

Final round of the annual event is set for tomorrow.

Special To The Democrat

TAMPA—Downing Gray, 21-year-old Florida State varsity golfer, shot a 73 yesterday to win the Gasparilla Amateur Invitational championship at the Palma Ceia course.

A junior from Pensacola, Gray put yesterday's 73 with an opening-round par 70 for a winning total of 143. Gray edged former FSU golf standout Jack Veghte of Clearwater who finished with 145.

Frank Malara, FSU junior, finished with a 152 total, shooting a 73 yesterday after an opening-round 79.