



2001 HYUNDAI-COMMISSION ON ATHLETICS MEN'S GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS

May 14th at Northridge Country Club
Sacramento, CA

LONG BEACH CITY COLLEGE EARLY FAVORITE

Long Beach City College is headed back to the Hyundai/California Community College Men's Golf Championship after winning the Southern California Regional Monday at Rio Bravo Country Club in Bakersfield.

The Vikings posted team rounds of 366 in the morning and 372 in the afternoon, winning by 17 strokes despite having to count a score of 80 in each round. Temperatures in Bakersfield reached 104 degrees in the afternoon.

Sophomore Brad Oh was the Regional medalist, shooting 68-70-138. His brother Alex shot 70-74-144 for Long Beach. Billy Sutt shot 146 (72-74), Scott Osterhout 150 (76-74), Tye Alexander 160 (80-80), and Brett Thurston 161 (80-81) rounded out the Long Beach City contingent.

Long Beach City (738), who won the state title in 1999 before taking runner-up honors last year, will be joined at the State Championship by defending state champion Canyons (755), 1998 state champ Desert (762), and Palomar (762) from Southern California. History favors the South in the State Championship, as the region has won the state title eight consecutive years. Notable by their absence is Orange Empire Conference champion Saddleback, who shot 767 and missed out for just the second time in nine years.

Ironically, the team that that beat out the Gauchos was Palomar, who finished second to the Gauchos in the OEC. The North will be represented by Chabot, Monterey Peninsula, American River, and Sequoias. Chabot endured similar scorching weather

in Salinas and shot 753 to edge MPC by one stroke at Corral de Tierra.

The Vikings finished two strokes ahead of Canyons last year at the Southern California Regional, also held at Rio Bravo, but the Cougars stormed back a week later to win the state title by 19 strokes at Glendora Country Club.

A number of accomplishments by coach Paul Chafe's team this season bear noting:

- LBCC had five of the six members of the All-South Coast Conference Team, determined by stroke average in conference play. Alex Oh (69.2), Billy Sutt (69.5), Tye Alexander (69.7), Scott Osterhout (71.3), and Brad Oh (73.0) joined El Camino's Tony Orlandini as the all-conference honorees.

- A round of 62 by Alexander, included among a team round of 344 by the Vikings at Recreation Park. The round of 62 ties the competitive course record, held by PGA touring professional Paul Goydos, and is believed to be a state community college record.

Alexander set school records with that round, as well as his 36-hole total of 131 on the day. The team score of 344 is also believed to be a state community college record, according to Victor Valley coach Bill Bachofner, the editor of the state coaches newsletter.

- For 13 rounds of South Coast Conference play, the Vikings as a team shot 28-under-par. Chafe indicated that it was the first time one of his teams had accomplished that feat.

