

Jacques ties for third at Colorado Open

By Gary Baines For the Camera Boulder Daily Camera

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DENVER -- It's been a very busy last week or so for Kelly Jacques, but judging by the smile on her face Friday, she was a happy camper -- albeit probably a fatigued one.

Jacques, a two-time state high school champion from her days at Skyline, finished tied for third Friday in the HealthOne Colorado Women's Open. And while she would have loved to win the tournament, placing that high was a big accomplishment under the circumstances.

In the last week-plus, the former University of Oklahoma golfer flew to the Sooner State and drove back, and also played a major role in the wedding last Saturday of her best friend, Chelsey Collins. Collins, a Monarch High School graduate, is likewise a former OU golfer.

But while Jacques made sure to help make last weekend extra special for Collins, she didn't put in the time she normally would have on her golf game leading up to a big tournament.

But in the end, she bore down enough when it mattered and earned a \$3,375 paycheck for finishing four strokes behind champion Joy Trotter of Chino Hills, Calif., in the Colorado Women's Open at Green Valley Ranch Golf Club. Jacques posted rounds of 73-73-71 for a 1-over-par 217 total. Becca Huffer of Denver, another two-time state high school champ, placed second at 215.

"I just made sure (Collins') week was perfect," Jacques noted about the weekend leading up to the Women's Open. "There are going to be so many other tournaments. It would have killed me if I had won the Colorado Open but at the end of the day my best friend felt neglected on her day. So I'm glad I made that a priority because her day was perfect. I wouldn't have wanted it any other way.

"But it definitely made me grind a little harder mentally to make sure I was prepared" for the golf tournament.

Friday marked the second time Jacques has finished third in the Colorado Women's Open. She also did so as an amateur in 2007.

This time around, Jacques played her final 10 holes in 1 under par to move up the leader board as others were slipping.

"I knew my game physically and technically wasn't really up to par," she said. "So I was really proud of myself the way I stuck in there mentally and convinced myself, 'No, I am ready and I can win this thing.' So I'm definitely happy with the finish."

At least Jacques could say a week ago that she knew she was going to be playing in the Colorado Women's Open. University of Colorado golfer Jenny Coleman didn't get into the tournament until the night before it began.

But despite never having seen the course before Day 1 of the event, Coleman ended up claiming

low-amateur honors and finishing fifth overall. The CU junior-to-be made a 15-foot birdie putt on the final hole Friday to edge 2011 low-am Somin Lee of Denver by one stroke for the trophy.

"I'm very satisfied," said Coleman, who fired a 71 Friday for a 2 over. "I played pretty well."

After CU coach Anne Kelly texted Coleman and twin sister Kristin about there being a single opening in the CWO tournament, the siblings decided Jenny should compete based on her better performance in the recent NCAA Finals.

But Kristin played a key role at Green Valley Ranch nevertheless by caddying for Jenny.

"It was nice," Jenny said of having her sister on the bag. "It helped since neither one of us had played the course (before Wednesday). It helped to have both opinions as to what to do on shots."

Colorado Women's Open