

Amateur leads with 68

Haymarket golfer in front; Decker, Barber one back

SENIOR STATE OPEN OF VIRGINIA

Where: James River course, Country Club of Virginia

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The leader board after one round of the 36-hole Senior State Open of Virginia golf tournament features familiar and not so familiar names.

Northern Virginia amateur Jim McGuire, 51, of Haymarket finished late on a sweltering afternoon with a 4-under-par 68 on the Country Club of Virginia's James River course yesterday. He holds a one-stroke lead on amateurs Keith Decker, 50, of Martinsville and Allen Barber, 51, of Yorktown and Lake Chesdin Golf Club head PGA professional Tim White, 51.

Amateur Rick LaReau, 52, of Glen Allen trails by two strokes after a 70. Amateurs

David Partridge of Manakin and Tim Kelley of Ashland and PGA professionals Mike West of Richmond, Jon Corliss of Virginia Beach (2008 Senior State Open champ), Mike Moyers of Stanardsville and Bud Lintelman of Purcellville shot 71 and are three shots behind.

Virginia Tech golf coach and defending champion Jay Hardwick, PGA professional from Blacksburg, and reigning U.S. Senior Amateur champion Vinny Giles of Richmond were in with 72.

McGuire is one of 37 amateurs in the field who earned a spot through qualifying. He had six birdies and two bogeys in his first appear-

ance in the tournament.

Decker, who has won 17 major VSGA titles, also is playing in his first Senior State Open. Barber was the second low amateur in last year's Senior State Open.

The James River layout's slick, speedy greens were the talk of the opening round.

"The greens are really, really good and really, really fast," Barber said.

Said White, who didn't have a three-putt, "You don't get a chance to play greens this fast and this good often. You have to be careful."

Reigning State Senior Stroke Play and State Senior Amateur champion Glenn Mullian was well off the pace with a 76.

Final-round action begins today at 8 a.m.

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- Starting times available at www.vsga.org.