Lee Trevino says he's not a golf hustler

By WILL GRIMSLEY
AP Special Correspondent

NEW YORK (AP)—You can call Lee Trevino almost anything but smile when you call him a "golf hustler."

"I'm no golf hustler," the ebullient Mexican-American insisted Tuesday after reeciving a trophy as pro golf's Player of the Year. "I'm afraid some of you fellows use that term a little loosely in my case.

"A hustler is a golfer who has a four handicap and tells everybody he's a 10. He's out to hustle somebody else out of some dough. It's a form of cheating. I never had a handicap and I don't hustle."

The sharp response was triggered when one of the newsmen, attending an impromptu press conference, asked Trevino how much money he was able to make as a "golf hustler."

"I never had more than two bucks in my pocket at any time," Trevino replied. "My take-home pay was $71.50 a week. I played a dollar Nassau with a priest. Everybody gambled a little bit.

"We played two-bit skins and the most any guy could win was $5.50. That's not hustling, man, that's scratching."

The copper-skinned pro from El Paso, Tex., described how he had inherited the label of "hustler" before he joined the pro tour in 1967 to become one of golf's biggest stars.

"I worked at a driving range in the daytime and a pitch'n'putt course at night," he related. "I played golf from morning until night and used every gimmick in the book to get a bet. I played one-handed, on my knees and with one club."

What about the story of a Dr. Pepper bottle?

"It's true," Trevino said. "There's not much to do around El Paso. So I wrapped this quart-sized Dr. Pepper bottle and practiced hitting balls out the door. I got pretty good with it."

In the end, he could play the nine holes of the pitch'n'putt course with the bottle in 30 strokes. It kept him in hamburger and beer money.

Winner of $231,000 on the tour this year, capturing the U.S., British and Canadian Opens in the space of four weeks, Trevino was apologetic about receiving the pro honor.

Intramural department announces all-star teams in three classes

All-star teams have been selected in basketball in three classes, the intramural office announced Tuesday.

Selected to the Class G women's basketball team were Marsha Thompson, Law Ramp 10; Sara Carr and Kay Seidel, G-1; Linda Poland, Puryear Playmates; and Connie Ondrasek, Liberators.

Making the Class B basketball team are Paul Fitte, A-1; Scott Luce, Squadron 2; James Wilcox, Squadron 5; Steven Eberhard, F-2; Charles Ehler, M-1.

Selected to the Class C basketball team were: Joseph Cowdin, Vet-3; James Long, Fowler; William Suter, Law; Kenneth Bucek, Hughes; Van Pryor, Crocker.

All players making the teams will receive an all-intramural certificate.

Teams are reminded that December 20 is the final date for entering volleyball teams for spring competition.

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