



Kyle Thompson of Easley captured the 1996 edition of the Bobby Chapman Junior Invitational in the third hole of suddendeadth over first round leader Michael Maness. This major junior championship was held September 28 & 29, at The Country Club of Spartanburg and featured many of the country's top players.

Thompson, 17, holed out on the final hole of regulation play to force the playoff. The 100 yard sand wedge bounced once, slammed into the pin and dropped into the hole to give the Easley High School senior a final round 66 and a two stroke margin over the lead groups still on the course.

Maness, 16, playing the 15th hole, heard the roar and wondered what was happening. He knew it must have been good, and he better make a move. The Aynor High School junior focused in, hit his second shot on the par five hole and made the eagle putt to tie Thompson with three holes to play. Maness parred in from there and the playoff was set.

Thompson and Maness' playoff went three holes, hole #1, hole #9, then #1 again. Thompson finally won the battle with his fourth straight birdie on hole #1 (both times in the playoff and both rounds of sudden death). It was the second year that a Maness first round lead ended in a loss.

The field of 75 players included: the State Champions from Georgia, Alabama, Indiana, South & North Carolina, combined Carolinas Champion, the reigning AJGA Boys Champion, the 1995 National Maxfli Champion, all of the top twenty boys in the BB&T Rankings, four of the top twenty-five nationally ranked players and nine players from the USGA Junior (7 of which made it to match play).

Defending Champion Lucas Glover started this year's event the same way he ended last year's, HOT. Lucas was strong, playing six-under-par through the first seventeen holes. Unfortunately there are eighteen holes in a round. As the Wade Hampton High School senior waited to hit his approach shot on the final hole of his first round rain began to fall. Heavy rain and a couple bad shots and bad luck led to Glover posting a quadruple bogey eight for a first round 70. He never seem to get it going again. His final round 72 gave him a two-under-par 142, ironically four strokes back and alone in fourth place.

Kyle Thompson (Easley, SC) 72-66--138
 Michael Maness (Galivants Ferry, SC) 67-71--138
 Jedd McLuen (Colbert, GA) 72-69--141
 Lucas Glover (Greenville, SC) 70-72--142
 William McGirt, III (Fairmont, NC) 72-71--143
 Matt Wagner (Charlotte, NC) 72-72--144
 Jason Martin (Lenoir, NC) 71-73--144
 J.R. Llewellyn (Lawrenceville, GA) 70-75--145
 D.J. Trahan (Hilton Head Is., SC) 69-76--145
 Matthew Avinger (Orangeburg, SC) 72-74--146
 Jamie Thomas (Jefferson, SC) 70-76--146
 Daniel Brunson (Greenville, SC) 70-76--146
 Eric Ledford (Jackson, SC) 69-77--146
 Robbie Timms (Florence, SC) 76-71--147
 John Engler (Augusta, GA) 75-72--147
 Erik Labitzke (Daytona Beach, FL) 74-73--147
 Josh Branyon (Honea Path, SC) 76-72--148
 Paul Tucker (Pageland, SC) 75-73--148
 Brett Johnson (Hilton Head Is., SC) 75-73--148
 David Sanchez (Charlotte, NC) 77-72--149
 Ben Duncan (Greenville, SC) 75-74--149
 Ryan Lagergren (Titusville, FL) 74-75--149
 Brian Scurlock (Augusta, GA) 72-77--149
 Mark Easley (Spartanburg, SC) 71-78--149
 D.J. Fiese (Woodstock, GA) 76-74--150
 Tripp James (Spartanburg, SC) 73-77--150
 Scott Feaster (Columbia, SC) 71-79--150
 Andy Crain (Goldsboro, NC) 74-77--151
 John Harris, III (Charlotte, NC) 72-79--151
 Bubba Watson (Bagdad, FL) 78-74--152
 Donovan Daniels (Aiken, SC) 78-74--152
 Jack Croyle (Moultrie, GA) 77-75--152
 Barrett Wood (Simpsonville, SC) 77-75--152
 Tanner Smith (Belmon, NC) 75-77--152
 Gabe Norris (Spartanburg, SC) 79-74--153
 Rob Simmons (Walterboro, SC) 78-75--153

Scott Volpito (Augusta, GA) 77-76--153
 Alan Poole (Florence, SC) 77-76--153
 Robert Harrison (Perry, GA) 74-79--153
 Kris Mikkelsen (Woodstock, GA) 76-78--154
 Landon Smith (Greensboro, NC) 76-78--154
 Chad Wilfong (Thomasville, NC) 75-79--154
 Jeremy Elliott (Chapel Hill, NC) 75-79--154
 Mac Cannon (Spartanburg, SC) 79-76--155
 Gregg Jones (Florence, SC) 79-76--155
 Adam Cranford (Augusta, GA) 78-77--155
 Yates Coleman (Aiken, SC) 77-78--155
 Michael Sims (Spartanburg, SC) 80-76--156
 Jerome Delariarte (Alpharetta, GA) 78-78--156
 Paul Schuler (Raleigh, NC) 78-78--156
 John McAllister (Spartanburg, SC) 77-79--156
 Michael Loftin (Stoneville, NC) 73-83--156
 Andrew Gardner (Spartanburg, SC) 81-76--157
 Daniel Crook (Duluth, GA) 74-83--157
 Dale Ketola (Greenwood, SC) 82-76--158
 Nathan Fritz (Greenwood, IN) 80-78--158
 Jonathan Cole (Spartanburg, SC) 80-78--158
 Jay Biber (Spartanburg, SC) 78-80--158
 Jeremy Lewis (Knoxville, TN) 77-82--159
 Rus Clark (Raleigh, NC) 81-80--161
 Chad Stewart (Fort Mill, SC) 84-78--162
 Drew Eller (Old Hickory, TN) 83-79--162
 Miles Larason (Anderson, SC) 77-85--162
 Chad Webb (Macclesfield, NC) 84-80--164
 Josh Blackmon (Warner Robins, GA) 76-89--165
 Rob Beasley (Greensboro, NC) 83-84--167
 Hal Knopf (Sumter, SC) 83-84--167
 Tres Smith (Greer, SC) 86-82--168
 Greg Hamilton (Raleigh, NC) 89-80--169
 Matt Sakowitz (Peachtree City, GA) 82-89--171
 Eric Hepler (Murrells Inlet, SC) 86-92--178
 David Fowler (Campobello, SC) 98-95--193