Written by Mike Kelly
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J.T.Poston of Hickory High not only captured the Class 3A state championship in men's golf on Tuesday, but he also set a new state record in defending his title at the Foxfire Golf and Country Club in Foxfire Village, NC.

Poston, a two-time state champion, put on a clinic. He fired a nine-under-par 63 in the opening round on Monday, and followed that up with a four-under 68 on Tuesday. Poston had a two-day total of 131 and was 13-under-par.

He bested the field by nine shots. Robert Register of Burlington Williams finished second in the field. And Poston fired the lowest 36-hole total in the history of the NCHSAA championships by putting up a 68 on Tuesday to go with a blistering nine-under 63 on the opening day. The previous low score for 36 holes was a 134 by East Davidson's John Carter III at Broken Arrow in Statesville in the 1999 championships.

Burlington Williams won the Class 3A title with a team score of 579; Hickory finished five shots back with a 584. In Class 4A at Pinehurst No.6, Leesville Road won the state title with a 577 team score. Alexander Central finished eighth with a team score of 603.

Ben Griffin of Chapel Hill had a two-day total of 137 and defeated Andrew Decker of Greenville Rose in a playoff. Ben Gardner of the Cougars had a 70 on the final round. He fired a two-day total of 148 and finished an 11th-place tie. Zack Burket of the Cougars tied for 18th.