

Nicholas' clubs arrive in nick of time

KEN WIEBE
Staff Reporter

kwiebe@wpgsun.com

There was a point when Geoff Nicholas thought he might actually have to rent or even borrow some golf clubs.

If this were simply a vacation, that wouldn't be a big deal but Nicholas was in Winnipeg to defend a title, not merely see the sights and play a couple of leisurely rounds of golf.

But two days after Nicholas landed in Winnipeg, his trusty clubs were located and arrived from LAX international airport in California.

The delays limited him to only one practice round, but that hasn't prevented Nicholas from taking a three stroke lead over Bob MacDermott of Edmonton heading into the final round of the Canadian National Amputee Open at Southwood Golf &



BRIAN DONOGH Sun

Robert MacDermott blasts out of a trap yesterday.

Country Club.

"I've had luggage lost before, but always got it

sent to me the next day," said Nicholas, who followed up an opening round 72 with a 76 yesterday to leave him at 148. "I was starting to get nervous. I arrived from Sydney (Australia) on Saturday and my clubs finally got here on Monday."

Nicholas, who has won the Canadian championship four times, is looking to successfully defend his title before playing in the U.S. National Amputee Open next week at Hazeltine National Golf Club.

"The best part of my game has been my chipping," said Nicholas, a 12-time winner of the United States and British National Championships who started golfing at the age of 13. "I enjoy the competition but I also enjoy the socializing."

A total of 88 golfers from Australia, Great Britain, South Africa, the United States and Canada are competing for the title.