

Jan Stephenson trails by one because of a stroke penalty assessed after she accidentally moved her ball marker on the 11th hole. Six others are at 71: Betsy King and Judy Clark, amateurs Kathy McCarthy and Dottie Pepper, and non-winners Jackie Bertsch and Lori Garbacz.

Lopez has never won an Open. She finished second as an amateur in 1975 and again in 1977 as a pro. "I feel so good about how I am playing," she said. "I think this is my chance to win the Open. I feel so good about it."



Nancy Lopez: Tied with Janet Anderson, Kathy Baker.

Stephenson, who was playing in a threesome with Patty Sheehan and Jerilyn Britz, had hit her fourth shot from the fringe of the 11th green to within four feet on the right side of the cup.

Her ball was in Sheehan's line to the cup, though, and Sheehan asked Stephenson to move the marker one clubhead to give her a clear line.

Stephenson moved the ball, marked it with a dime and used her putter to push it deeper into the green so it would not distract Sheehan. The dime jumped slightly when the putter was lifted.

Rules state that an object used to mark the position of the ball must remain in position until the ball is replaced.

"It really flustered me," said Stephenson, who bogeyed the hole. "I am usually very careful about those things. There's no question it upset me. I was shaking the rest of the round."

Lopez, who made four birdies and two bogeys, has won three of her last six tournaments.

**Hinkle leads by two**

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. — Lon Hinkle shot a seven-under 64 to take a two-stroke lead after the first round of the \$500,000 Anheuser-Busch Classic.

"I've been through some highs and lows. I haven't been very high lately, but I'm holding my own," said Hinkle, who hasn't won a tour event since 1969 and is 65th on this year's money list.

Jay Haas and rookies Mike Hulbert and Steve Pate share second. Six players are at 67 and 12 more, including defending champion Ronnie Black, at 68.

Hinkle, playing the back nine first, made the first of his seven birdies on the 179-yard, par-three 13th. His last birdie came on a 25-foot putt on the 452-yard, par-four ninth hole.

"It was a real nice round. I made

some good putts, and I'm very, very pleased," said Hinkle, whose last of three victories was the World Series of Golf.

Hinkle, 35, attributed his success to a one-week break he took after finishing 56th in Atlanta and 52nd at Memphis. He said he detected a flaw in his swing and wanted some time to work on it.

"It was an incomplete swing. I have a tendency to start my downswing before I finish my backswing. I just have to slow down a little bit and relax."

**Notebook**

Curtis Strange, the leading money winner on the PGA Tour, withdrew from next week's British Open in part because of "the

desire to spend some much needed time with my family." ... Frank Reynolds of Naples shot a five-under 67 to take a two-stroke lead after the first round of the 44th annual Florida Open at the Innisbrook Resort in Tarpon Springs.

Reynolds, a club pro at the FoxFire Golf Club, needed only 26 putts in his seven-birdie round.

Jim Weeden of Boca Raton is second in the 72-hole tournament, which ends Sunday. Greg Cesario defeated medalist Tim Crockett, 2 and 1, and Bob McDonnell defeated defending champion John Pigg, 4 and 2, in the Trans-Mississippi Championship in Fort Smith, Ark. ... Britain's Mike King (four-under 68) and Australian Graham Marsh (71) share a two-stroke lead after two rounds of the \$160,000 Lawrence Batley International in Sutton Coldfield, England. ... Keith Goyen's three-under 68 Wednesday gave him a one-stroke lead after the first round of the Western Amateur in Benton Harbor, Mich. Len Mattiace of Ponte Verda, Fla., and Scott Gump of Merritt Island, Fla., were at 69. Jack Nicklaus Jr. of North Palm Beach shot 80.

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