

# Rote cops Superstars

ROTONDA, Fla. (UPI) — Kyle Rote Jr. could only watch as water skier Wayne Grimditch lined up for the final event of the Superstars competition Sunday, needing a first or second place finish to beat him.

"It's one of those situations where I guess it's a lot like golf," said Rote, soccer star of the Dallas Tornado. "You're finished with your 18 holes and have a one-stroke lead but there's a guy four holes behind you who can birdie two or three of them. There's nothing you can do."

But Grimditch could do no better than fourth in the event —the obstacle course run—and that gave Rote, who had not entered the event, his second championship in three years and the \$34,900 first prize.

"If he had won, I would've been pleased because he's a great athlete and a great young man," Rote said. "But I'm sure in other events he was watching me."

Grimditch's finish in the final event enabled football star Lynn Swann of the Pittsburgh Steelers to finish second overall, one-half point ahead of Grimditch

and four behind Rote.

The 25-year-old Rote won the Superstars crown in 1974 and finished third behind winner O.J. Simpson last year. He was so busy thinking about his stiff competition that he didn't immediately realize he was the only athlete ever to win two Superstars' crowns in the four-year history of the event.

"I hadn't even thought of it that way," he said. "I'm just thrilled the competition is over with."

Rote made a good showing in the four events in which he competed Sunday, finishing second in the baseball hitting, fourth in the 100-yard dash and half-mile run and fifth in the bicycle race.

Swann, who had not even scored in Saturday's first round, roared out of the pack Sunday with victories in the 100-yard dash and obstacle course run and finished second in the half-mile. Grimditch won the bike race and finished third in the half-mile.

Bob Rigby, soccer goalkeeper of the New York Cosmos, was fourth while shotputter Brian Oldfield was fifth.