

Jones leads WMGA play by 2 strokes

LOCUST VALLEY, N.Y.—Barbara Jones of Ridgewood, N.J., who has been enjoying an outstanding golf season, took a two-stroke lead in the opening round of the 36-hole Women's Metropolitan Golf Association stroke play championship yesterday at the Piping Rock Club.

The 24-year-old Jones carded a 38-37-75 over the 5,394-yard, par 35-36-71 course. Grace McGrath of the home club is in second place with a 38-39-77. The 80-woman field will complete the tournament today.

The tall, long-driving Jones, who has aspirations of turning professional in the fall, won the Metropolitan women's championship in June and the Bergen County title last week.

Mary Ann Wickley of Bamm Hollow, N.J., and Pam Darmstadt of Winged Foot trail by three strokes. Wickley overcame a troublesome front nine to post a 41-37-78.

Two other New Jersey competitors also are in contention. Kendra Beard of Essex Fells has a 40-39-79 and Susan Semler of White Beeches posted a 42-37-79. Defending champion Ann Probert of Somerset Hills, N.J., who won the Garden State Golf Association Goss Memorial last week, is nine strokes off the pace with an 84.

The 18th hole cost Beard a tie for second place when she took a double-bogey seven. She hit her third shot off a tree and took three putts to get down.

"Except for the first hole, I had putting problems," said Beard, the 1981 Met junior champion.

She sank a 20-foot putt for her only birdie but finished with five three-putt greens. After a two-hour rain delay, Beard posted six straight pars until the disastrous No. 18.

LEADERS

Barbara Jones, Ridgewood	38-37-75
Grace McGrath, Piping Rock, N.Y.	38-39-77
Pam Darmsfadt, Winged Foot, N.Y.	38-40-78
Mary Ann Wickley, Bamm Hollow	41-37-78
Kendra Beard, Essex Fells	40-39-79
Amanda Presto, Lakeover, Conn.	40-39-79
Susan Semler, White Beeches	42-37-79
Sara Sage, Piping Rock, N.Y.	39-40-79
Dana Aydelotte, Stanwich, Conn.	39-41-80
Barbara Israel, Century, N.Y.	41-39-80