

Jones captures WMGA crown by 4 strokes

LOCUST VALLEY, N.Y.—Barbara Jones of Ridgewood, N.J., celebrated her birthday one day early by winning the Women's Metropolitan Golf Association's fifth annual stroke play championship yesterday at Piping Rock.

Jones, who is 25 today, led a field of 80 as she finished with a 36-hole total of 152, carding a six-over par 77 yesterday over the 5,394-yard course. Dana Aydelotte of Stanwich, Conn., was runnerup, four strokes back with an 80-76-156.

The victory provided Jones with a sweep of the major WMGA championships. She had captured the match play title last month. The only other player to win both tournaments the same year was another New Jersey competitor, Colleen Binkiewicz, in 1979.

Jones has high hopes of joining her sister, Marjorie McDaniel, as a professional. McDaniel, who has been a pro for four years, is competing on the satellite ladies' tour. Jones plans to enter the LPGA qualifying school in January.

The champion decided to take up golf seriously only two and a half years ago. The Ithaca College alumnus—she has a degree in physical therapy—is a standout field hockey and softball player.

Jones' short game, strengthened by daily hours of practice, was the feature of her WMGA victory. She held a two-stroke lead with the 75 over Grace McGrath of the home club after Tuesday's opening round. McGrath fell back to finish in a tie for third at 157.

Three other New Jersey women placed in the top 10. Mary Beth Wickley of Bamm Hollow turned in a 78-80-158, Susan Semler of White Beeches carded a 79-80-159 and Ann Probert of Somerset Hills, tournament champion the last two years, shot the best final-day round after a disastrous start to finish at 86-75-161.