

Bartholomew gains WMGA quarterfinal

By Bob Glauber

Staff Writer

When they started the match early Tuesday afternoon, they were separated by 41 years. But by the time they finished, Jean Bartholomew and Louis Munro were only three shots apart.

The 19-year-old Bartholomew needed 15 holes to defeat her 60-year-old rival to advance to the quarterfinal of the Women's Metropolitan Golf Association Match Play Championships at the Elmwood Country Club in White Plains.

Bartholomew, the youngest competitor in the tournament, has established herself as the early favorite for the championship. She posted the best score of 77 in Monday's qualifying round, and she advanced to the quarterfinals with morning and afternoon victories Tuesday. She defeated Lenore Rosenfeld of Scarsdale 7 and 5 in the morning before beating Munro 3 and 2 in the afternoon.

Bartholomew, competing in her first WMGA Match Play Championships, isn't talking title yet. But Munro feels she's the one to beat.

"I'll call her to win," said Munro. "If she can keep her cool, she'll be okay. I like the way she hits the ball."

Bartholomew, who plays out of Garden City Country Club, is a big hitter, and drives of 250 to 275 yards are commonplace in her repertoire. She had a few problems with her short game on the back nine against Munro, but made up for any errors with her dynamic drives and long approach shots.

"I didn't feel like I had any tempo," said Bartholomew, a sophomore at Duke University. "Plus, I've been working on a new grip, and I'm just not that confident setting up."

Despite what she called her erratic play, Bartholomew said she feels capable of turning things around for the remainder of the week. To win the WMGA event, she'll have to win her matches for the next three days. The quarterfinals are set for today, the semifinals for Thursday and the 36-hole final for Friday.

"My tempo is something I can change right away," said Bartholomew. "There is some inconsistency I can overcome."

Munro had a battle with inconsistency in her morning match, but managed to outlast Carol Pitzer on the 21st hole. Both players are out of Innis Arden in Greenwich, Conn., where Munro is a 25-time club champion.

"I was two up, then two down and then even in the morning," said Munro.

Another strong performance Tuesday came from Karen Noble of Morris County. She registered four consecutive birdies on the final four holes to defeat Bonnie Tyler of Innis Arden 2-up in the morning round, and she advanced to the quarterfinals with a 3 and 1 victory over Joanne Lander in the afternoon.

The other quarterfinalists are Linda Schnoll of Shackamaxon; Sybil Whitman of Mountain Ridge; Helen Aitken of Montclair; Harriet Hart of Silver Spring; Donna Young of Springdale; and Yvonne Thiel of Whippoorwill.