

Thiel, Bartholomew advance in WMGA Match Play tournament

By Bob Glauber
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The baby boomers are alive and well at the 83rd WMGA Match Play Championships.

Jean Bartholomew, the hard-hitting 19-year-old from Garden City, L.I., and Yvonne Thiel, the smooth-swinging 25-year-old from Armonk, advanced to today's 36-hole final at the Elmwood Country Club in White Plains.

Bartholomew downed 18-year-old Karen Noble of Morris County (N.J.) 4 and 3, and Thiel defeated Linda Schnoll of Shackamaxon (N.J.), 5 and 4, in the semifinals. The final four had to wait through a 4½-hour rain delay before teeing off.

Bartholomew, a sophomore at Duke University, continued to display the driving power that made her one of the pre-tournament fa-

vorites. She survived an erratic front nine, on which she went up by two holes but then fell back to even, and won four of the next five holes to close out the match.

Thiel, who plays out of the Whipoorwill Country Club in Armonk, credited her success Thursday to a lesson the day before with Whipoorwill head pro Bob Moro.

"He showed me I was making some bad shots that stemmed from bad tempo," said Thiel, who is studying toward a doctorate in molecular chemistry at Yale University. "I basically found that my tempo is there. It's just a matter of correcting my timing."

Thiel went back to Whipoorwill after winning her quarterfinal match Wednesday and spent two hours practicing on the range. The extra work paid off, because she came out strong against Schnoll, last year's runner-up. Thiel won five of the first nine holes and

sealed the match after the 14th.

"The best part of my game was putting," said Thiel, who had never advanced to the final before. "The greens weren't as wet as I thought. The course had great drainage."

Thiel said she'll have to continue her concentration to beat Bartholomew in today's final, scheduled to begin at 8:30 a.m.

"The key is to keep my drives in the fairway and not to watch (Bartholomew). I know she hits longer than me, but all I have to concentrate on is my tempo, that's it."

Both finalists said they were unaffected by Thursday's early morning downpour.

"The only thing I didn't like was waiting around," said Bartholomew. "But the course was fine. It's in good shape."