

Binkiewicz up by 2 in stroke-play event

Young Colleen Binkiewicz of Forest Hill began working on another major amateur title yesterday and shot a 40-37-77 for a two-stroke lead in the Women's Metropolitan Golf Association Stroke-Play Championship at the Ridgewood Country Club.

The 23-year-old Binkiewicz, who has dominated major amateur competition this season with victories in the Garden State Stroke-Play and Met Match-Play championships, will take a two-stroke lead over Barbara Israel of Century in New York into today's final round of the 36-hole tournament, which was launched by the Women's Met eight years ago.

On hand at Ridgewood yesterday was last year's champion Barbara Jones of the host club. Jones was not defending her title, however, as she turned professional after her victory last year.

Jones will be joined on the LPGA mini-tour by the blond, 5-3 Binkiewicz in September. Binkiewicz is a graduate of Tulsa, where she played for a golf team that finished second in the NCAA tournament. Both Binkiewicz and Jones will seek to earn their LPGA Tour cards.

Within shooting range at 81 over the par-74, 6,037-yard layout was Ann Probert of Somerset Hills. Rie Noble of Morris County and Sheila Solomon of Alpine each shot 82.

The best shot of the day belonged

to Gretchen Calvert of Morris County, who holed a four iron for an eagle two on the 325-yard 10th hole. Calvert finished the first round with an 86.

The net lead was shared by Robin Curtis of Spring Brook at 84-12-72 and Solomon at 82-10-72.

Binkiewicz thanked her uncle, Pete, for her success yesterday.

"He gave me a lesson at Forest Hill," she explained. "He's a four-handicap golfer.

"I had trouble off the tees but my irons were good. And the putting helped."

Binkiewicz birdied the par-three sixth when she hit a nine iron to within two feet. She suffered a double bogey on the eighth hole and a bogey on the ninth from the bunkers but birdied the 13th with a 10-foot putt.

Binkiewicz bogeyed the 16th but got it back with a 15-foot birdie putt on the 17th.

"It could have been a better round," she said, "but for my driving. I'm glad I worked on my putting."

FIRST ROUND

Colleen Binkiewicz, Forest Hill 40-37-77

Barbara Israel, Century, N.Y. 41-38-79

Ann Probert, Somerset Hills 40-41-81

Rie Noble, Morris County 41-41-82

Sheila Solomon, Alpine 40-42-82

Sarah Koeppel, Fresh Meadow, N.Y. 42-41-83

Yvonne Theil, Whipoorwill, N.Y. 41-42-83

Coleen Luker, Beacon Hill 40-43-83

Sybil Whitman, Mountain Ridge 42-42-84

Barbara Young, Aspetuck Valley, Conn. 42-

42-84

Helen Aitken, Monclair 42-42-84