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Binkiewicz medalist

on 78 in WMGA play

By PETER WOLF

Nineteen-year-old Coleen Binkiewicz of Forest Hill, last week's winner of the Women's Metropolitan Golf Association Match Play Championship, yesterday fired a three-over-par 78 at the Canoe Brook Country Club, Summit, to lead 24 other New Jersey qualifiers into the WMGA Stroke Play Championship.

She finished two strokes in front of Susan Stockfish of Deal, 26, who shot 43-37-80, to make her way into the 36-hole championship that will be held July 18-19 at Fresh Meadow in Great Neck, L.I.

Binkiewicz recorded three birdies, including one on the par-four, 317-yard third following a fine drive.

"I hit an eight-iron right at the

stick—inside about two feet. It was a super shot," said Binkiewicz, who brought home a round of 40-38-78 over the 5,784-yard course.

The diminutive Belleville resident first picked up golf three years ago, following a gymnastics-related back injury while a student at Bloomfield. Last Friday, Binkiewicz defeated Paula Slivinsky, a teammate at Palm Beach Junior College, in a playoff for the met match play title. She finished fifth in the National Junior College Championships, won by Slivinsky and the Palm Beach squad.

"I guess I put a little pressure on myself by winning last week," Binkiewicz observed.

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Stockfish, a former Ithaca College golfer—who “didn’t play much and sort of tagged around with (Women’s Professional Golf Tour players) Cindy (Ferro of Forest Hill) and Margie (Jones of Ridgewood)” —played with Binkiewicz in the first twosome to start.

“I hit the ball well, but my short game defeated me,” Stockfish said.

“It’s hard to play with someone you know so well,” Binkiewicz said. “You don’t concentrate as well. I went out trying to steer it. But I played better on the back side. I quit trying to steer it. I just went after it and started hitting it finally. The front side is a little tighter.

On the 443-yard, par-five 15th, she followed strong driver and five-wood shots by chipping to within three feet and holing out for a birdie.

Cindy O’Connor, 20, of Spring Brook, last Tuesday’s winner of the Dope Open, was third at 82 and Mary Beth Wickley, 18, of Bamm Hollow finished fourth at 84. The recent graduate of Middletown South is bound for Rollins College in Winter Park, Fla., on a golf scholarship.

Kendra Beard, a West Essex junior, and her mother, Ann, president of the WMGA, both of Essex Fells, qualified with rounds of 85 and 87, respectively.