

Slivinsky, Binkiewicz reach final

By JOHN RUYZAM

Palm Beach Junior College will be represented today by the young stars for the 76th Women's Metropolitan Golf Association's Match Play Championship at the Mountain Ridge Country Club in West Palm Beach.

18-year-old Paula Slivinsky of Palm Beach, playing the most consistent golf of her career, will meet Colleen Binkiewicz of Forest Hill, 19, in the 18-hole final.

Both players, both selected for all-American golf honors, are teammates at Palm Beach and worked together in electing the Florida school to the National Junior College Women's crown two weeks ago at the Midland Country Club in Morgan Park, Texas.

Slivinsky returned to her home in New York, N.Y., with the individual honors and Binkiewicz, a Bloomfield high graduate, placed fifth.

In yesterday's semifinal matches, Slivinsky defeated fellow New Yorker Pam Darmstadt of Winged Foot, 8 and 6, and Binkiewicz stopped 15-year-old Jennifer Steiner of Huntington Crescent, 5 and 3.

A two-time winner of the Met Junior Championship, Slivinsky has had an easy time on Mountain Ridge's par 75, 5,985-yard course—she's had to play no more than 13 holes in each of her four matches in advancing to the final.

Colleen had a more difficult time in a quarterfinal encounter with Regine Hawes of Westchester, which the blonde co-ed won, 1 up on the 19th hole.

Slivinsky explained that she first met Binkiewicz in the Met Junior Championship two years ago at Echo Lake.

"We both were tied after regulation, but I beat Colleen in a playoff and we struck up a friendship after that," told Paula, runnerup in the N.Y. State Amateur last year.

Slivinsky grabbed an early lead over Darmstadt yesterday, winning the second, fourth, fifth, seventh and eighth holes to go 5 up at the turn. She birdied the second with a four-foot putt and the par-five eighth, where she was home in two. Her only bogey came on the par four, 402-yard first hole after a wayward tee shot.

She took command of the match by winning the first three holes on the back nine.

"I was happy with the way I played today," she said. "I played consistently, but I don't think Pam was at her best.

"I'm starting to hit my approach shots better and my putting is coming around. It couldn't have come at a better time."

Binkiewicz has perfected the game in three short years.

"My uncle got me interested in the game when I was 16, but I don't think I could play any better than I'm playing

right now if I had started sooner." she stated.

"Playing golf at Palm Beach really helped me a lot," she added. "I had very good competition and I saw how the other girls concentrate on their game. I concentrated more, too, and this helped my short game."

She went one up on Steiner at the eighth hole, where she chipped two feet from the pin for a birdie.

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Binkiewicz was 1 up after 11 holes but took the next four holes to win.

She birdied the par five, 399-yard 13th when she hit a five wood two feet from the cup.

"When we saw the pairings, we were excited knowing that we were in different brackets and we could play each other in the final," told Slivinsky. "We both felt we had a good chance of making it."