

Amateur Binkiewicz sets lofty goal past WMGA match play championship

By Larry Weisman

Staff Writer

Colleen Binkiewicz, who plans to try the women's professional golf tour in the fall, is making the best of her waning amateur days.

Binkiewicz, playing out of Forest Hill Field Club in Bloomfield, N.J., earned a quarterfinal berth in the 80th Women's Metropolitan Golf Association match play championship Tuesday with victories over Hampshire's Liane Pruzan, by 6 and 5, and Dana Aydelotte of Stanwich, by 4 and 2.

Binkiewicz played the par 37-37-74, 5,988-yard Century course in one stroke under regulation to defeat Aydelotte in the afternoon round.

"I was just hitting the ball well and keeping it in play," said the 23-year-old graduate of Tulsa University. "I just kept my game together."

This tournament could be her last in the area because she's now saving up to try the mini-tour in September. If all goes well, she hopes to try for her LPGA in November.

Binkiewicz meets Sarah Koepfel of Fresh Meadow in today's quarterfinal, a rematch of last year's second-round match which Binkiewicz, a former WMGA match play and stroke play champion, captured.

Koepfel, 21, beat Sally Newi of Mount Kisco, 2-up, and then knocked off Bonnie Tyler of Innis Arden, 7 and 6.

Koepfel played the front nine in 2-under-par in downing Tyler and was 6-up at the turn. She recently graduated from Trinity College, where she played on the men's golf team — there was no women's team — though she only took the game up five years ago.

Ann Probert, the medalist in Monday's qualifying round, won both of her matches to gain the quarterfinals. Probert, of Somerset Hills in Bernardsville, N.J., was runnerup last year and faces Barbara Young of Aspetuck Valley today.