

Defender Yields To Sub-Par Golf

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Mrs. Bower And Mrs. Hart In Replay Of '66 Met Final

By BOBO OATWAY

Some can shoot par golf and win. Others do likewise and lose.

That was the story Thursday in the semifinal round of the 67th Women's Metropolitan Golf Association tournament at Essex Fells, N.J., Country Club where the 1966 finalists played their way into today's 6-hole championship match.

Mrs. Albert B. Bower of Pelham, who won the title four years ago, matched par as she eliminated Mrs. Gordon McGrath of Piping Rock, 4 and 2. But Mrs. Thorne Dempsey the defender from Meadow Brook, was overwhelmed by the brilliant play of Mrs. A. Sherburne Hart of Essex County, 6 and 5.

Thus the two long-ball hitters, both also superb putters, set the stage for a replay of the 1966 final at Meadow Brook, in which Mrs. Bower emerged victorious, 4 and 3.

Prior to that Met victory, Mrs. Bower had won the Kentucky, Maryland, Massachu-

setts and New York State championships during a golfing career that has spanned close to 30 years. She is the current omens' Tri-County and the Fairfield Westchester Open (Wheeler Cup) champion, and is a three-time winner of the Westchester Rockland Newspapers' Tournament of Club Champions.

Mrs. Hart has played competitively for 12 year and is the New Jersey State champion.

Both finalists qualified for the Met tournament with 38-39 —77 over the par-75, 5,783-yard layout—trailing only Mrs. James Noble of Morris County, who was even with par.

Against Mrs. McGrath, the current WMGA medal-play (Jersey Shore) champion, Mrs. Bower took the lead on the sixth hole and never let go.

Mrs. Bower won the first hole, lost the second to a birdie, won the fourth with par and lost the fifth to another birdie before taking the lead for good with a par on the sixth. She turned in 37, even with par.

After bogeying the short 10th hole, Mrs. Bower birdied the long 11th and played par the rest of the way before ending the match on the 16th.

"I thought if you played par golf you won," said the de-

fending champion as she returned to the clubhouse. "But what can you do against an opponent who shoots sub-par golf the way Mrs. Hart did today?"

Mrs. Hart had six birdies on the front nine for a 31 while Mrs. Dempsey was even with par at 37. The state titlist played out her round and finished with an even 70.

Mrs. Dempsey dropped a 15-foot putt for a birdie-2 on the second but Mrs. Hart promptly halved the hole by sinking her 8-foot putt.

On the seventh, Mrs. Hart sank a 20-footer for a birdie, and clipped par also on the next two holes. She hit her third shot on the par-5 eighth two feet from the pin and her second four feet away on the par-4 ninth, and holed out both times.

By the turn, Mrs. Hart was 5-up. She won the 10th with a par and closed out the match on the 13th by halving the next three.

In her quarterfinal Wednesday against 10-time winner Maureen Orcutt of White Beches, Mrs. Hart played sub-par golf after the second hole to win, 3 and 2.