

Noble, Schnoll advance to match-play semifinals

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. — Karen Noble of the Morris County Golf Club in Convent Station continued her winning ways yesterday in the 83d match play championship of the Women's Metropolitan Golf Association with a 2 and 1 victory over fellow-New Jerseyan Helen Aitken of Montclair in a quarterfinal match at the Elmwood Country Club.

Noble, 18, who just completed her freshman year at Wake Forest, will take on another 18-year-old, qualifying medalist Jean Bartholomew of Garden City today in the semifinal round. Bartholomew, who completed her freshman year at Duke, ousted Donna Young of Springdale in New Jersey, 1 up.

New Jersey has another semifinalist in Linda Schnoll of Shackamaxon, N.J., the runner-up to Jerseyan Ann Probert of Somerset Hills last year. She advanced with a 2 and 1 triumph over Harriet Hart of Silver Spring,

Conn. Hart won the WMGA match play championship in 1970. Schnoll was 4 up at the end of five holes against Hart and finished the front nine with a 35.

The 36-hole final round is scheduled for tomorrow.

Noble, winner of the Morris County Junior championship three times, conceded that she did not play well yesterday.

"Many of my drives were going to the right and into the rough," she lamented. "I'm usually a good driver. The fairways are narrow and I think I'm scared to hit the ball hard. I'm easing into my drives and not hitting them well."

Noble won the ninth hole with a par and the 10th with a bogey to go two up over Aitken. But Aitken evened the match with winning pars on the 13th and 14th. Noble took the 401-yard, par-five 15th when she just missed a short eagle putt. She put a three wood 10 feet from the cup but lipped the putt. She went 2 up on the 16th with a winning bogey and the match concluded on the 17th when they halved in par.

Schnoll started well in her match against Hart when she won the first, second, third and fifth holes and was 3 up at the turn. However she lost the 15th and 16th.

"I had a feeling of being on the defensive, as though I were losing, but I was still up," told Schnoll. "I got my head together and won the 17th."

She did that to close out the match when she two-putted for a par four after Hart hit her approach into a bunker.

Schnoll will face Yvonne Thiel of Whipoorwill in the semifinal.

QUARTERFINALS

Jean Bartholomew, Garden City, N.Y., def. Donna Young, Springdale, 1 up.
Karen Noble, Morris County, def. Helen Aitken, Montclair, 2 and 1.
Linda Schnoll, Shackamaxon, def. Harriet Hart, Silver Spring, Conn., 2 and 1.
Yvonne Thiel, Whipoorwill, N.Y., def. Sybil Whitman, Mountain Ridge, 1 up.