

# N.J.'s Noble wins, 3&2, in first round

COLUMBIA, S.C. — New Jersey's Karen Noble of the Morris County Golf Club in Convent Station, a finalist in the 1988 U.S. Women's Amateur, eliminated Tanna Lee of Arkansas, 3 and 2, in the first round of match-play yesterday in the 59th Women's Trans National Golf Championship at the Columbia Country Club.

The 21-year-old Noble, who was graduated from Wake Forest University in the spring, will meet Vickie Layton of Greensboro, N.C., in today's second round of the upper bracket on the 6,103-yard course. Layton was a 3 and 2 winner over Pennsylvania's Jodie Figley.

If Noble defeats Layton, she will advance into tomorrow morning's third round, which will be followed by the quarterfinals in the afternoon. The semifinals are scheduled for Friday with the 36-hole final slated for 8 a.m. on Saturday.

Qualifying medalist Blue Kinander of Chicago's Medinah Country Club got by Kate Hughes of Alabama in her first round match and could meet Noble if both advance to the semifinal.



# Noble wins twice, reaches semis

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Karen Noble of the Morris County Golf Club in Convent Station, N.J., shot her way into today's semifinal round of match play in the 59th Women's Trans National Golf Championship when she edged Leslie Shannon of Florida, 2 and 1, in the third round and then trounced Washington state's Stephanie Davis, 4 and 3, in the quarterfinals yesterday at the Columbia Country Club.

If the 21-year-old Noble can get by Amy Fruwirth of Cypress, Calif., this morning, she'll advance to tomorrow's 36-hole final on the 6,103-yard course. Fruwirth won, 3 and 2, over Kate Hughes of Minnesota in her third-round match and then defeated Arizona's Paige Gilbert, 4 and 3, in the quarterfinal. Today's other semifinal pairs Florida's Katie Paterson with Brandie Burton of Rialto, Calif.

Noble isn't at all unfamiliar with the pressure. A standout golfer at Wake Forest University before graduation this past May, she was a finalist in the 1988 U.S. Amateur.

"Actually, I'm feeling pretty relaxed right now," said Noble, who appears to be gaining confidence with each round. "I've been hitting the ball much more solidly and just playing more consistently than I was earlier in the week."

On Monday, Noble had shot a three-over-par 75 in the stroke-play qualifying round. She won Tuesday's first-round match, 3 and 2, and Wednesday's second-round match, 2 and 1. In yesterday morning's third-round, she had her entire game together. That was fortunate for her since Shannon also was shooting well.

"I really felt great in the morning match," said Noble, who birdied the

first, fourth and 16th holes and parred all other holes but the 11th, which she bogeyed.

"I did very well on the front side and only missed one green on the back side," said Noble of her third-round performance. "I think the difference has been how solid I've been hitting the ball, especially with my irons. My birdie putts were probably within five feet."

Noble slumped somewhat in the quarterfinal round, but she still breezed by Davis, who lost control of the match after the sixth hole. Noble won the first hole, lost the second. They halved the third, Noble took the fifth, they split the sixth, and then the New Jerseyan pulled away.

"She didn't play well at all," Noble said of Davis. "Neither did I, actually, but I guess I had enough left to take it. Davis had played two great

matches previously and I think that took something out of her."

Noble had enough to birdie the seventh and 13th holes, yet she did bogey on Nos. 2, 5, 6, 8, 10 and 14.

This will be the first time Noble will get a close look at Fruwirth, who also carded a 75 in Monday's qualifying round. Fruwirth, a three-year veteran of the tour, is a product of Arizona State University.

"This will be the first time I've ever played with her; I don't know a great deal about her," said Noble, who does have a pretty good handle on Peterson, one of the other semifinalists. Peterson attended the University of North Carolina, one of Wake Forest's Atlantic Coast Conference foes.

"It would be exciting to play Katie (Peterson)," said Noble. "But I've got to get myself through the semis first."