

Surging Noble reaches match play quarterfinals

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. — Karen Noble of the Morris County Golf Club in Convent Station, N.J., yesterday saved her best golf for the last few holes of her two rounds of competition to advance to the quarterfinals of the 83d Match Play Championship of the Women's Metropolitan Golf Association at the Elmwood Country Club.

In the first round, Noble, who just completed her freshman year at Wake Forest, trailed Bonnie Tyler of Innis Arden, Conn., by one hole at the end of 14 but birdied the final four holes and won, two up. Both Noble and Tyler had birdied the 15th.

Then, in the afternoon round against Joann Lauder of Bedford, the 18-year-old from Mendham, N.J., was one up through 15 holes and birdied the

16th and 17th to close out the match. On the par-three 16th, Noble, daughter of Rie Noble, winner of many metropolitan golf championships in the 1960s and 1970s, just missed a hole-in-one when she left a six iron two inches from the cup.

"But I wasn't hitting the ball well today on my drives," said Noble, winner of the Morris County Junior girls' crown three years in a row and the Rutgers Junior Girls' championship in 1984. "It seemed like I just started putting better as the matches went on."

Noble will play Helen Aitken of Montclair in a quarterfinal match today. The semifinals are scheduled for tomorrow and a 36-hole final for Friday.

Other New Jersey golfers advancing to the quarterfinals were last year's runnerup, Linda Schnoll of Shackamaxon, Donna Young of Springdale and Sybil Whitman of Mountain Ridge.