

**Noble tops Waters  
for Met Golf crown**

## **By BLAIR HOLLEY**

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**BERNARDSVILLE** — The essence of match play golf could be observed on the 13th green at Somerset Hills Country Club yesterday afternoon, as Karen Noble won the Women's Metropolitan Match Play Championship.

The final result, two holes later, was a 4-and-3 margin over the talented Maura Waters of Raritan Valley.

Although the earlier holes in the scheduled 36-hole finale certainly mattered, it was on the 31st hole that things, in general, were settled.

Waters had been giving Noble a tough time: she was only one hole down after the first 18 and 2-down after 27 holes. Even when Noble won the 28th with a par to go 3-up, Waters told herself to, "Get it in gear," and not give up.

Waters won the next hole, No. 11, and one that Noble had bogeyed every day of the week-long tournament. But Noble came right back with a super 9-iron tee shot to within just one foot of the pin on the par-3 12th for an easy birdie and another 3-up advantage. The Morris County Golf Club youngster seemed unbeatable, but Waters was still not ready to cave in.

That is, not until she ran afoul of the fiendishly designed 13th green — in the middle of which the respected architect A. W. Tillinghast set a deep trough. And the pin was smack in the middle of the depression.

In a few moments, Waters was in her own depression and the match was, for all intents and purposes, over. But not for any error on the part of Waters.

Oh no, she chipped from 40 feet away in front of the green and slid her ball just over the rise to roll gently down and stop 18 inches from the pin for a certain par. It was a great shot under pressure.

Then Noble's caddie, Billy Wil-

liams, told her to put it right at the flag and she did. The 35-foot chip rolled unerringly across the green, clinked against the pin and dived into the cup for an astonishing birdie and a 4-up lead with just five to play.

Waters said, "I was patting myself on the back and she put it in. It kind of demoralized me."

Noble offered, "I thought it would die near the hole and was shocked when it went in." As she walked off the green, she had a sheepish grin on her face that seemed to ask, "Did I really do that?"

The miraculous chip broke her concentration and she bogeyed the next hole, as Waters still fought back with a super drive and great bunker recovery to within two inches for a par.

But the end was now inevitable and Noble put a solid par in the bank on the 15th green, while Waters bogied after driving behind a pine tree. It was over, but everyone knew it had really ended on the fateful 13th green.

The birdies and bogeys were really not as important as the fine competition provided by these two young women. Noble, a Wake Forest University senior, and Waters, who graduated from Rutgers last year, delighted the spectators with their excellent shotmaking and superior sportsmanship.

The one problem is, assuming they both remain amateurs, the older women in New Jersey golf will have trouble winning any tournaments for some years to come. And that doesn't include Noble's talented Wake Forest teammate Laura D'Allesandro of Toms River, whom she defeated last summer in the finals of the New Jersey Women's Amateur.

In the closing match of the Sanford Cup, a competition for women who did not qualify for the championship flight, Claire Parsells of Springdale had to go 20 holes to win over Brenda Grasse Tuxedo.



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**Caddie Mark Mastrobattista watches Maura Waters**  
**line up a putt.**