

Noble, Waters set for Match Play final

By **BLAIR HOLLEY**
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BERNARDSVILLE — It's Karen Noble versus Maura Waters in today's scheduled 36-hole finals of the Women's Metropolitan Golf Association Match Play Championship at beautiful Somerset Hills Country Club.

Noble had her most difficult time in this tournament in yesterday's 3 & 2 semifinal match against Reggie Hawes of Westchester. The Morris County Golf Club's 20-year-old standout was struggling a bit.

Noble birdied No. 7 from eight feet to go 2-up. But Hawes had pulled to within just one-down on Noble after 11 holes. But the next hole proved decisive.

Hawes almost holed her tee shot on the over-the-pond par three No. 12, for a conceded sixth hole birdie. But Noble remained 1-up in the

match when she drained a twisting 10-footer for a birdie of her own.

"That was the turning point right there," Noble said. Hawes agreed it had dampened her spirits.

"It gave me confidence to come off No. 11 after that bogey and birdie the next," Noble said. "It got me fired up."

She won the next two holes with a par and then a 7-foot birdie to go 3-up and they halved Nos. 15 and 16 to end the match 3 & 2.

As expected, but by no means easily, Waters won her semifinal match against the tenacious Donna Young of Springdale. The former Rutgers star and Raritan Valley member missed a 6-foot birdie on No. 18 but Young didn't miss her five-footer to even their match and send them over to the first tee.

But after pars on the 19th green kept them even, Waters put her tee shot on the par three

20th hole to within 15 feet of the cup. When Young chipped from the fringe and the ball trickled over the plateau on which the pin was set, it led to a bogey and all Waters had to do was play conservatively for her wimming par.

"I missed a lot of putts, at least three four-footers," Waters said before headed home to practice her putting.

Noble, the number one player on the Wake Forest women's team and current New Jersey Amateur champion, felt her game was even further off than it was on Wednesday, but she was only one-over-par through the 16 holes played.

But with no summer school class last night she said, "I'll get to bed early and be ready for the final match."

So it will be Wake Forest versus Rutgers, so to speak, for one of the most prestigious titles in area women's golf.