

Platt wins WMGA stroke play title

By **EVERETT MERRILL**

Margaret Platt of Knollwood, N.Y., keyed by an eagle, shot a one-over-par 73 in an 18-hole playoff with three other golfers to win the Ninth Women's Metropolitan Golf Association Stroke Play Championship by two strokes yesterday at the North Jersey Country Club in Wayne.

Platt, an 18-year-old sophomore at Auburn University, finished at 35-38-73, two shots ahead of Adrienne Gilmartin of North Hempstead, N.Y., and Karen Noble of Morris County at the 5,713-yard course. Hatsy Hart of Silver Spring, Conn., a former touring pro and club champion at Baltusrol, shot 39-42-81 to place fourth.

The four had been tied at 155 on Tuesday after 36 holes of regulation play. The 18-hole playoff was the first in the tournament.

Noble, a sophomore at Wake Forest, who had nines of 38 and 37, was only one shot behind Platt after 17 holes of the playoff, but took a bogey five on the 351-yard 18th hole while Platt sank a five-foot putt for par.

"This is the biggest victory I've ever had," said Platt, the WMGA Junior Girls' champion in 1985. "The course really appealed to me. The greens and the fairways are hilly, but I liked that. I felt very much at home here."

Platt scored her eagle three on the

414-yard sixth hole. She hit a six iron to the green and ran in a 45-foot putt.

"I had my putting going today," Platt added. "At times, I started to lose my concentration, especially on the back nine."

Platt suffered three bogeys on the back nine. Noble, the Morris County Junior Girls' champion three consecutive years from 1983 to 1985, scored the only birdie of the group on the back nine with a 10-foot putt on the par-three 15th hole.

Platt began yesterday's round with a bogey six on the 423-yard first hole. She rebounded to go three under with her eagle and birdies on the second and eighth holes. She finished with a 35 on the front nine by bogeying No.

9. Her tee shot at the par-four, 340-yard 11 hole went into the water. However, Platt avoided further trouble when her second shot after the penalty stroke landed on the green. She then two-putted for a bogey five.

"My concentration started slipping right around then," said Platt. "I was just fortunate enough to get some pars the rest of the way."

Noble, who will be joined by Laura D'Alessandro, the New Jersey Junior Girls' champion in 1983, 1984 and 1985 and the winner of the 1984 New Jersey Women's Amateur, at Wake Forest next year, had three birdies against four bogeys and a double-bogey.

"This is the first time I've played in this tournament," pointed out Noble, whose mother, Rie, also competed this week. "I felt more pressure in the beginning of the day than I did down the stretch. I just decided to play the course and not worry about anything else."

Gilmartin, a senior political science major at Stanford University, was plagued by a severe headache during her round. After shooting one-over-par on the front nine, she faltered with four bogeys on the back nine.

"I started out good," said the petite Gilmartin, who won the WMGA Junior Girls' title in 1983. "Then the headache started to bother me and I just couldn't make any putts on the back nine."

Hart, who played the LPGA tour in the early 1970s and is a former New Jersey Amateur and Met stroke and match play champion when she played at Baltusrol, struggled all day with six bogeys and two double-bogeys against just one birdie.



Margaret Platt
Stroke Play Champion



Karen Noble
Low Net Winner

STROKE PLAY CHAMPIONSHIP

The 9th WMGA Stroke Play Championship, which was played on the demanding 5713-yard, par 72 course of the North Jersey Country Club on July 14, 15, proved to be one of the most exciting thus far, commencing with a hole-in-one on the first day and culminating with a four-way tie at 155 after the second day.

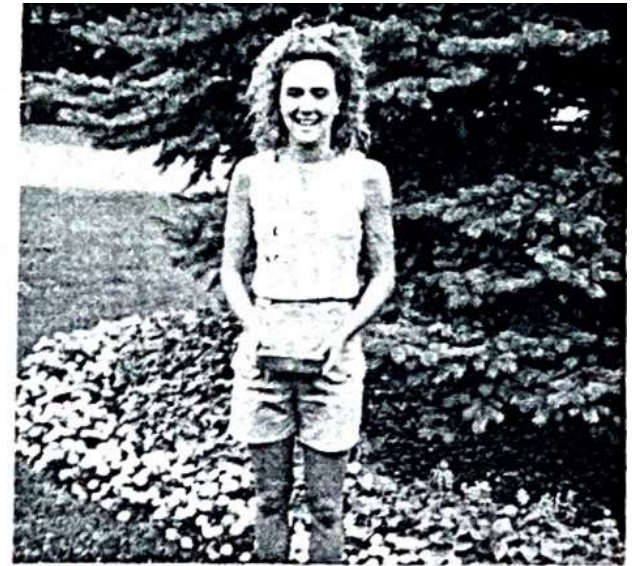
Adrienne Gilmartin delighted all with her perfect 8 iron shot on the 125-yard 4th hole. This was Adrienne's first hole-in-one.

Hatsy Hart, Silver Spring; Adrienne Gilmartin, North Hempstead; Karen Noble, Morris County, and Margaret Platt, Knollwood, teed up again on July 17. All four lovely ladies played superb golf, and the spectators and press were in awe of their talent and ability. The WMGA can be proud of the "spirit of sportsmanship and friendly rivalry" that was apparent throughout the play-off. The excitement of the tournament was further enhanced by the fact that there was only a one stroke difference after 17 holes.

Margaret Platt emerged the victor and the Champion with a 73. Her round included 1 eagle, 1 birdie, and 4 bogeys. Margaret declared it her "biggest victory ever" but you can be sure we'll be reading a lot more about Margaret in the future. Karen Noble was the overall Net Winner with a 36-hole total of 143.

A special thanks to our President, Mary McCurdy, our 1st Vice President, Helen Carter, and also to Alice Kruse, Irene O'Connor, Sarah Sallizoni, Dorothy Crawford, Geri Scarpi and Judith Hack who gave so generously of their time.

HONEY GANTNER
Chairman



Adrienne Gilmartin
2nd Gross
Hole-in-One



Relaxing after play-off (L to R): Margaret Platt (Champion), Adrienne Gilmartin, Karen Noble and Hatsy Hart.

Platt corrals Met golf crown

By **BLAIR HOLLEY**

Daily Record Golf Writer

WAYNE — As she had done all afternoon, Margaret Platt ran down a six-foot putt on the final hole yesterday, denying the gallant games of Karen Noble of Mendham and Long Island's Adrienne Gilmartin.

The three were involved — with Hatsy Hart of Connecticut — in a four-way, 18-hole playoff for the Women's Metropolitan Golf Association Stroke Play Championship on North Jersey Country Club's demanding turf.

Hart had an 81 and Platt's final putt gave her a one-over-par 73, topping Noble and Gilmartin by two strokes. But it was closer than that.

Noble of Morris County Golf Club is 18 and a sophomore at Wake Forest. She trailed Platt of Knollwood (N.Y.) by four strokes with just four holes to play but she never gave up.

"I've learned to keep an open mind and not get discouraged," Noble said, helped by her one-year collegiate experience. She was voted Most Improved Player on the Wake Forest women's golf team.

Suddenly a two-shot swing on the 15th hole left only two shots separating Platt and Noble. Noble birdied from 20 feet and Platt three-putted to tighten things up.

Platt erred again on the 17th green and Noble parred to move within one stroke of the leader. But Platt, 18, a sophomore at Auburn University, shut the door as pitched her third shot on 18 to within six feet of par, while Noble bogied from 15 feet to drop into a tie with Gilmartin.

Noble did not come away empty handed, since her 155 in regulation play resulted in a 143 which won the Net Championship. While she said she was happy with the net title, it could be seen in her eyes how much more the gross prize meant.

Crediting her consistent putting for the victory, Platt's driving was one of the keys to the win. She frequently outdrove her rivals by 30-40 yards. On the 312-yard 10th hole, Platt crashed one almost to the green, at least 275 yards off the tee.

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Platt wins WMGA

WAYNE — Margaret Platt of Knollwood Country Club shot a 73 yesterday to win a four-way playoff for the Women's Metropolitan Golf Association stroke-play championship at North Jersey Country Club.

Karen Noble of Morris County CC and Adrienne Gilmartin of North Hempstead Golf Club shared second at 75.