

**Area golfer makes the
most of her opportunity**

Platt ties for first-round lead in Women's Metropolitan Open

By Rick Carpiello

Staff Writer

It isn't often that amateur women golfers in this area get a chance to compete with the pros.

Thus the creation of the Women's Metropolitan Open, sponsored by NYNEX, which began yesterday at Quaker Ridge Golf Club in Scarsdale.

Two amateurs made the most of that opportunity. Margaret Platt of Westchester Country Club was tied for the first-round lead, at 3-over-par 75, with pro Anne Heuschneider (a player on the Futures Tour)

of Smithtown, and amateur Ann Probert of Somerset Hills was two shots back heading into today's 18-hole final round.

Five others, including Sleepy Hollow pro Sharon McQuillan-Nolletti (the 1987 Met PGA Women's champ and a four-time winner on the Florida Tour) and Ridgeway pro Susie Berdoy were tied at 79. The tournament is co-hosted by the Metropolitan PGA and the Women's Metropolitan Golf Association, which handles amateur golf exclusively.

Platt, a 1-handicap who enters her senior year at Auburn Univer-

sity next week, is the reigning club champion at Westchester CC. She competed, for the second time, in the U.S. Women's Open last month, as well as in the U.S. Women's Amateur.

"I got up and down," Platt said. "I wasn't hitting the ball well at all. I was in some tough spots and in trouble off the tee all day."

Trouble isn't a good place to be on the tough Quaker Ridge course, which is 6,007 yards long and playing longer with the tees back, a breeze blowing and deep roughs. So Platt knew that she'd have to avoid another scrambling day in order to hold off Heuschneider, who, as a pro, will be gunning for the \$5,000 first prize (the total purse is \$20,000).

"It is (difficult) if you're hitting

it anywhere off line," Platt said. "You have to be able to hit some tough shots. If you miss an approach shot, you've got to get up and down out of a bunker. And you've got to know how to putt. There are a lot of undulating greens and a lot of big breaks.

"I'll just give it my best shot. It was a good round, but it was tough to shoot what I shot. I never gave myself birdie opportunities; on the par-5s I never had a chance for birdie. I was always stymied."

Platt played the course's four par-5s in 1-over-par. Her only birdie came at the par-4 17th, to go along with three bogeys.

The tournament became almost a necessity because of the growing number (nearly 40) of women assistant club pros in the Met area, said

Met PGA executive director Charles Robson.

Robson got together with the WMGA's president, Jean Cornacchia and vice president, Rosemary Mankiewicz, and later with NY-NEX, to get the inaugural off the ground.

"It's been something we'd been thinking about for a couple of years," Robson said. "We were getting more and more women assistant pros, and there weren't many tournament opportunities for them. And we had no Women's Open.

"They (the WMGA) seemed very interested, and it's been great. There have been no egos, and no cares about whose name went where"

"The Met PGA approached us,"

Cornacchia said. "There really wasn't a pro event for women in the area. We went into it wholeheartedly. We thought it was wonderful for women to have the opportunity to play with (the pros)."

So 21 pros and 58 amateurs teed it up yesterday, and a field of 60 survived the first round.

Leaders in the first round of the inaugural Women's Metropolitan Open golf championship held yesterday at the 6,007-yard, par 36-34-73 Quaker Ridge Golf Club in Scarsdale.

A-denotes amateur		
A-Margaret Platt,	Westchester	38-37-75
Anne Heuschneider,	Smithtown	36-39-75
A-Ann Probert,	Somerset Hills	40-37-77
Sharon McQuillan,	Sleepy Hollow	39-40-79
Susie Berdoy,	Ridgeway	40-49-79
Debbie Lessel,	Ridgewood	39-40-79
A-Amy Lane,	Navesink	41-38-79
A-Sarah Koepfel,	Fresh Meadow	41-38-79
June Staton,	Cedar Brook	41-39-80
Angela Aulenti,	Metropolis	38-42-80
A-Reggie Hawes,	Westchester	40-40-80
A-Janel Haire,	Rockaway Hunt	40-40-80
Barbara Prendergast,	Quaker Ridge	38-43-81
Cynthia Cooper,	Florham Park	39-42-81
A-Gwen Fisher,	Fenway	39-43-82
Patti McGowan,	Glen Oaks	40-42-82
A-Linda Schnoll,	Shackamaxon	41-41-82