

**Kathy Linney Wins
Fourth Major Title**

ESSEX FELLS — Kathy Linney's tingling victory in the 49th / New Jersey Women's Amateur Championship capped an astounding summer of competitive golf for her.

A professional in the field of computers, the Plainfield Country Club woman won what might be termed "The Little Slam" of area distaff golf.

Her first major triumph was a come-from-behind performance in the Elizabeth Goss Round Robin tourney at Somerset Hills. Eight of a maximum possible nine points on the final day brought her this title for the second time, with most of the top Garden State Women's Golf Association players in the field.

Next, she annexed the prestigious Metropolitan 54-hole Medal-play Championship, better known as the "Shore Tournament". Here she bested the finest female golfers in the Metropolitan Golf Association.

About the only thing she missed winning for a "Big Slam" was the New Jersey 54-hole-Medal-play event at Morris County Golf Club. Pat Johnstone (Mrs. David), Montclair Golf Club, won that one with a strong and steady performance.

In the most recent affair, sponsored by the Women's State Golf Committee of New Jersey, Miss Linney's two most important matches came in the quarterfinals and finals.

A strong field of qualifiers was headed by Cindy Ferro of Forest Hill, who earned the medal with a 40-40--80. Mrs. Theron U. Lyman, Plainfield, had been next with 40-41--81.

Miss Linney had carded 41-42--82, as did Mrs. James Noble, Morris County Golf Club, the 1973 runnerup and also a former champion. Always a threat, Mrs. William Tracy, Essex Fells, shot 41-42--83.

Grouped at 84 were Mrs. Johnstone and Mrs. Robert O'Connor, Hackensack, both 39-45. Then came Mrs. David

Pinkham, Upper Montclair, and Mrs. George Guard, North Jersey, at 86.

A final group at 88 filled the championship 16, as Mrs. David Dickson, Green Acres (the same club as defending champion Nancy Albert), had 43-45; Mrs. Lee Beard, Essex Fells, 43-45; Mrs. Syd Brooke, Woodlake, 46-42; Miss Barbara Moyerman, Burlington, 42-46; and Miss Carly Brooks, Forsgate, 41-47.

Moving smoothly through early round matches, Miss Linney ran up against the defending champion in the quarterfinal. It was played in a heavy rain.

The match was even through 15 holes, although Miss Linney needed a birdie from 15 feet on the 14th green to halve the hole and hold the tie. Miss Albert was up stiff for her bird.

Then on 16, Miss Albert faltered from the rough and lost to Kathy's par five. They halved in to end it 1-up.

One of those "halves", on 17, came on the strength of another fine birdie putt, from 10 feet, by Miss Linney, with Miss Albert again up close for almost a tap-in bird.

Miss Linney ousted Mrs. Johnstone in the semi-final, 3 and 2, firing early birdies. Her finals opponent, Miss Ferro, had a much tougher time with Mrs. Noble.

The Ferro-Noble match used up all the regulation holes and three extra. Two down, with but four to play, Miss Ferro rallied to win 15 with a birdie and edged in to even as Mrs. Noble bogeyed 17.

That 17th had been Mrs. Noble's "bugaboo" all week. Then Cindy chipped well to halve 18 and stay alive, and the match ended when Mrs. Noble took three from the edge on the 21st green.

All of which set the stage for an excellent finale. They thrilled viewers by going the full 36-hole route, with Miss Linney winning the final hole for the title.

Miss Ferro, this tourney's

1972 champion, noted later, "We are very close in our games and I felt it was very possible that we would go 36 holes—and we did."

The closeness of the match was evidenced by Miss Linney's postmatch comment, "I never felt a turning point until that last putt rolled in."

She added how important it was to her to win this title, "It's just great the first time you win." Miss Linney also gave great credit to her brother Bill, who is a golf professional and who had corrected some flaws in her game.

Asked to analyze an important hole, she noted the 17th in the morning round when she had played a ball out of the water to bogey the hole but save a loss. Oddly, it was another shot in the drink on this hole, when it was the 35th in the match, which almost cost her.

All's well that ends well, someone once said.