

**Darmstadt, Bower battle  
for WMGA championship**

**By LARRY WEISMAN**  
**Staff Writer**

Pride and revenge. They were on Pam Darmstadt's mind when she stepped up on the 18th green at the Apawamis Club in Rye and measured a 35-foot putt for birdie.

Her semifinal round match with Paula Slivinsky in the 77th Women's Metropolitan Golf Association Championship stood even under sunny skies Thursday afternoon and Darmstadt could well remember, just a year ago, her 7 and 6 defeat at Slivinsky's hand in the very same round of the very same tournament.

She rapped the putt solidly. Had it not been perfectly aimed, it might well have rolled out of the county, considering the slickness of the Apawamis greens. But, said Darmstadt, "I knew it was going in. I just knew it. You just know when they're going in."

The dramatic victory catapulted the 18-year-old Darmstadt into today's 36-hole finale against B Bower, who defeated 19-year-old Gail Flanagan 1-up on the third playoff hole. Bower, 57, and a three-time WMGA champion, won her first title in 1966 when Darmstadt was four years old.

While Darmstadt, a sophomore at Rollins College who plays out of Winged Foot, bears no personal animosity toward the 20-year-old Slivinsky, memories of last year's defeat made her hungry for victory.

"I don't want to toot my own horn but I had to win for my pride," said Darmstadt. "It was a little like a revenge match."

Slivinsky, a junior at Florida State University playing out of Salem GC, was 1-up after nine holes but lost the advantage when she bogeyed the tricky par-4 11th hole after she hooked her drive to the left and lipped out the par putt. Darmstadt went ahead on the 14 hole after Slivinsky landed on the edge of the water hazard in front of the green and missed a 3-foot putt for par. Darmstadt sank a short putt for par.

Darmstadt narrowly missed a 20-foot birdie putt on 17 while Slivinsky sank hers from eight feet to even the match. Both had long putts for birdie on 18 but after Darmstadt drilled hers home, Slivinsky's tailed off to the left and the match was over.

Bower, the medalist and perhaps the most consistent performer throughout the week, trailed for the first time in four match play rounds when she went up against Flanagan. Bower came from 2-down at the turn with a birdie and par on the 10th and 11th holes and went ahead on the par-3 16th with a birdie.

Flanagan bounced back to birdie 17 and 18, the putt on the latter hole a short one that forced Bower to reach for a little of the magic in her repertoire. She produced a downhill putt that saved her hopes for a fourth WMGA title by forcing extra holes. When Flanagan hit a trap on the third playoff hole, the end had begun. Bower narrowly missed the birdie putt, then tapped home the winner.

"I'm still here," she said with a smile after her triumph. "I had a few mistakes out there but, then again, don't we all? I hope to iron them out tomorrow."

Darmstadt, usually an excellent putter, continued to have her problems on the greens. Her saving grace was well-hit drives that continually found the center reaches of the Apawamis layout, which demands accuracy more than power. She hit all but one fairway, mostly with a 3-wood.

"As long as you're in the fairway you can't get in trouble," said Darmstadt and she didn't get in trouble. She got into the final round for the championship against the queen of area golf in a classic clash of exuberant youth and cool, consistent experience.