

**Bower captures 4th WMGA title**

B Bower received some timely advice from her caddy Friday afternoon at the Apawamis Club in Rye and fended off young Pam Darmstadt's charge to win her fourth Women's Metropolitan Golf Association Championship, 2 and 1.

Two long rounds of match play seemed to be taking their toll on the 57-year-old Bower, a former U.S. Golf Association women's senior champion and a winner in this tournament in 1966, 1974 and 1976. She was 3-up after 18 holes and 4-up after 21 before she began to spray her drives around.

Darmstadt, 18, took immediate advantage and pulled even five holes later with a 12-foot putt for par on the 25th hole and an 18-footer for a birdie on the 26th. Bower went ahead with a birdie on the 28th but Darmstadt drew even on the next hole. At that point, Bower's caddy, Hugh Thresher, spoke up.

He told her she wasn't turning her left shoulder, therefore hooking her drives. She made the appropriate adjustment and birdied the next hole, the par-3 12th (30th) hole and went 2-up with par on the next green. Darmstadt cut the deficit to one with another par.

The killer was a 48-foot chip on the 34th hole, the par-3, 150-yard 16th. Bower overshot the hole and sat beyond the lip of the green while Darmstadt hit the trap. Bower conferred with her caddy again, frowned at the advice, then followed it. Her shot stopped six inches from the pin and she made par while Darmstadt bogeyed to go 2-down with two holes to play.

"I said, 'There's no way to get the ball from here to there,'" Bower revealed later when she discussed her lie on 16. "But he said to hit it into the bank of the green and that it would jump in. I hit it, it jumped the bank, and then rolled left."

Darmstadt needed to win the 17th hole to stay alive but her putt lipped out and Bower, the medalist Monday, had survived her sixth round of match play. In three of her last four rounds, Bower beat 18-year-olds whose best days are yet ahead of them.

In a field that lacked many of the veteran competitors who have played and won before, Bower, of Pelham CC, stood up well to competition that spanned one medal play round and six match play jaunts around the Apawamis course.

Darmstadt's putt on 17 came torturously close to dropping and was reminiscent of her heroic effort on the 18th green the previous day, when she nailed a 35-footer to defeat Paula Slivinsky and gain a berth in the final. Darmstadt, who will be a sophomore at Rollins College and plays out of Winged Foot, was also unable to equal her effort of Thursday in which she hit 17 fairways.

"I thought I had it," she said of the fateful putt. "I thought I could bring it to 18. But, like I said yesterday, finishing second is better than finishing third or fourth."

**Someone has to win and someone has to lose.**

**“I had a little trouble getting my drives in the fairway,” she added. “If I could have stayed in the middle, it might have been closer.”**

**Bower was seven over par for the front nine in the afternoon, her worst effort of the week. It was shortly thereafter that Thresher, a caddy at Apawamis for eight years, made his suggestion.**

**“It was nauseating,” said Bower when she described her afternoon on the front nine. “But then he told me I wasn’t turning. I started turning and the difference was night and day.”**



—Staff Photos by James E. Hardy

*WMGA titlist B Bower, above,  
held off a challenging Pam Darmstadt*

