

***Presto captures
Met golf crown***

There is an old saying that when the going gets tough, the tough get going, and Greenwich's Amanda Presto proved just that Friday afternoon when she won the Women's Metropolitan Golf Association Championship by a 1-up margin over Barbara Jones at the Huntington Crescent course in Huntington, N.Y.

With Jones holding a 3-up lead at the midway point of the 36-hole final round, Presto put her game together in the afternoon tour of the course, picking up four birdies and going into the lead for good with four holes to play.

While winning the Met title was certainly an accomplishment to be proud of, Presto gave another reason the triumph meant a lot to her.

"At the beginning of the week, I told my father I would win the tournament for him as a Father's Day present. He can hold on to my trophy for a year."

The 20-year-old Presto, who won her fourth Greenwich Women's Town Golf Championship last week, added, "I hadn't really played my game all week until the last 18 holes today. The key to match play is never to give up, and I never give up. When I went 4-down in the morning, I didn't give up, I just came back swinging. That is where a lot of people would have faltered, but I was able to come back very strong."

Jones led throughout the first 18 holes of the final round, holding a 4-up lead after 13 holes, and was 3-up after 18. She retained that lead through the next five holes, and then Presto took over.

She won the sixth hole of the afternoon round with a bogey and then birdied the next two holes to even the match. She dropped the ninth hole but won the 10th with a par to again draw even. The two golfers halved the following three holes and Presto took the lead for the first time with a birdie on the 14th, and she did not trail again. The 15th was halved with bogeys, and a birdie by Presto on the 16th gave her a 2-up margin. Jones

stayed alive as she won the 17th with a par, but missed a 10-foot birdie putt on the 18th, giving Presto the win as she got down in two from the rough 30 feet from the pin.

Presto said the turning point in her match against Jones came on the 16th hole of the afternoon round. "I had just three-putted on the 15th, but I came back and hit my drive really far on the 16th. It is was a 335-yard hole and I hit half a sand wedge to the green. I knew I was going to birdie the hole, and I told my caddie if I birdied it, I would win the match."

Presto, representing Lakeover, and Jones, representing Ridgewood, both carded 82's in the qualifying round on Tuesday, one stroke behind co-medalists Judy Cooperstein of North Shore and Gail Flanagan of Westchester, both of whom eventually fell to the finalists in semi final play. Presto was a 2 and 1 winner over Flanagan, while Jones beat Cooperstein by a 2-up margin.

On her way to the final Presto beat Kathy Patterson of Briar Hall, 3 and 2; Sara Sage of Piping Rock, 3 and 1; Pam Darmstadt of Winged Foot, 1-up, and Flanagan. Jones made he way to Friday's match with victories over Sue Woltt of Harbor Hills, 4 and 3; Sally Vuilluit of Nassau, 4 and 3; Helen Aiken of Montclair, 3 and 2, and Cooperstein, who was a three-time winner of the tourney.

Now that she has the match play title, Presto will try for the Women's Metropolitan Stroke Play Championship on July 15. She earned medalist honors in the Westchester qualifying round for that event two weeks ago. Also on the agenda is the Trans-National Tournament in Denver at the end of July, and the Connecticut Amateur Championship Aug. 19. Later in August she will leave for the University of Kentucky, where she has been given a scholarship to play golf.