

## 1981 WMGA MATCH PLAY CHAMPIONSHIP

### AMANDA PRESTO 1981 CHAMPION

The Huntington Crescent Club on Long Island was the site of the week long 1981 78th WMGA Match Play Championship. Sixty-eight women teed off Monday, June 15, in the qualifying round. The 5,800-yard course had been made extremely difficult by tight pin placements and the use of the men's tees on several holes to obtain added distance.

B Bower, the defending champion, was exempt from qualifying. Judy Cooperstein and Gail Flanagan, who had an eagle on the par four 13th, tied for medalist with scores of 81, necessitating a sudden death playoff to determine the number two position. After tying the first three holes, Judy won on the fourth with a birdie 3.

The field of 32 was narrowed to 16 after Tuesday's morning matches, played in extreme heat. The afternoon round produced excitement with two matches being decided on the 19th hole—Gail Flanagan defeating Ruth Goldzier and last year's runner-up, Pam Darmstadt, scoring a

stunning upset over champ B Bower.

In the quarterfinals on Wednesday, Amanda Presto defeated Pam Darmstadt one up, Gail Flanagan bested Liz Maloy, Judy Cooperstein won her match with Laura Ault and Barbara Jones was the winner over Helen Aitken.

Thursday's semifinals saw Judy Cooperstein going down to defeat, with Barbara Jones winning two up, and Amanda Presto reaching the finals by winning her match with Gail Flanagan, two and one.

And so it was to be, for the final 36 holes on Friday, a test of youth—Amanda Presto, a 20-year-old, playing out of Lakeover in her first WMGA Championship and Barbara Jones, the 23-year-old golfer from Ridgewood Country Club. What a beautiful display of golf was in store for the gallery by these two tremendously long hitters!

Barbara finished the first eighteen 2 up over Amanda with scores of 80 and 81, respectively. However, the

afternoon round saw a dramatic turnaround by Amanda as Barbara's putting stroke began to falter. Amanda was now one up at the turn and held on to her lead to win on the 36th hole, one up, shooting 77.

In the Sanford Cup finals, great competition was displayed as Mimi Ross of Gardiner's Bay took Jinx McCrary, The Creek, to the 20th hole to win the Memorial Cup.

Many thanks are in order to all those who helped make this tournament a success. A special tribute is due our green superintendent, Joseph Alonzi, for having the golf course in such magnificent condition each and every day, and accolades to our pro, John Schob, for his invaluable assistance in the planning of this event. Last, but not least, my heartfelt appreciation to all the HCC club members who served on the tournament committee.

JANET BARKLEY  
WMGA Match Play Chairman  
Huntington Crescent Club