

# Presto rallies for WMGA title

By CHRIS BLAKE  
Staff Writer

HUNTINGTON, N.Y. — Down by as many as three holes during the afternoon round, Amanda Presto of Lakeover Country Club made a stunning comeback to defeat Barbara Jones of Ridgewood Country Club in New Jersey 1-up on the 36th hole of their title match Friday in the Women's Metropolitan Golf Association Match Play Championship.

Presto, from Greenwich, Conn., and a junior at the University of Kentucky, found herself in trouble after the first 18 holes on the 5,792-yard Huntington Crescent Club course as she went to lunch behind Jones by two holes.

"I think it was good that I was down after the morning round because it made me play more aggressively in the afternoon," explained the 20-year-old after the grueling, seven-hour match. "I usually make my charge at the end and I had this feeling when I started to play in the afternoon the way I usually do."

Presto conceded the fourth hole in the afternoon to Jones after taking an unplayable lie and hitting a shot over the green to go three down. After sinking a key putt for a half on the par-3 fifth, Presto began her charge.

A bogey-5 was good enough for a win on the sixth hole and two straight birdies on the seventh and eighth

evened the match.

The pair traded wins on the ninth and 10th holes and then stayed deadlocked until the 14th — a short, treacherous, 128-yard par-3. Presto played a perfect 8-iron to within 15 feet of the pin while Jones mishit her tee shot and landed on a slope short of the green.

Presto lined up her putt meticulously and when she was ready, she put it into the cup to win the hole. It was the first time Presto led.

When Presto birdied the par-4 16th (her sixth birdie of the day) to go up, the match appeared to be over. However, the 23-year-old Jones, who has been playing golf for only two years, was far from dead.

"I'm never one to give up and this afternoon, I figured that I would birdie the 17th," said Jones, "and with the wind on 18, I was sure a par would be good enough for a win."

Jones didn't even need her birdie on the 17th as Presto was kind enough to 3-putt for a bogey and open the door for her opponent. A sudden-death playoff seemed likely on the 18th as Jones reached the green in 2 and Presto found herself in the rough.

However, Presto was not about to throw away the match as she played a perfect chip shot to within six feet of the cup. Jones proceeded to leave her birdie effort short and Presto sank her putt to take the WMGA tourney in only her first try.