

78 WINS QUALIFYING FOR MATCH PLAY TOURNEY

Beard tops WMGA field

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By KARIN LONG

Kendra Beard of Essex Fells scored a three-over-par 38-40-78 to win the qualifying medal yesterday in the Women's Metropolitan Golf Association's Match Play tournament at the Canoe Brook Country Club in Summit.

The field of 32 golfers will play two rounds today in the 82nd championships at Canoe Brook. The tournament will wind up Friday.

Beard, who finished second in the Garden State Women's Golf Association Stroke Play Championship last week, led the qualifiers by five strokes. Ann Probert of Somerset Hills and Derby Campbell of Canoe Brook each scored an 83 over the 5,973-yard course.

"I'm really happy," said the 21-year-old Beard. "I've never won a qualifying round before. I generally just qualified and ended up with a tough first match."

Even with Lee Steffens of Baltusrol not defending her title, Beard will have strong competition from veterans Probert, Sybil Whitman, winner of the GSWGA Stroke Play last week, Donna Young of Springdale and Rie Noble of Morris County among the other qualifiers.

"There is a real strong field," said

the 5-7, brown-haired Beard, who plays with a three handicap. "I just wanted to play well. Even though I work in the pro shop here, I've only managed to play 27 holes and I didn't have a chance to practice my putting as much as I would have liked. I just thought positive."

Positive thinking worked for Beard, despite a slow start. The Wake Forest student bogeyed three of the first four holes and appeared headed for a dismal front nine until the fifth hole.

"After I parred the fifth hole, a real long par three, I felt better," Beard explained. "Then I birdied the next three holes and finished even at the turn. I've never birdied three holes in a row before."

Beard sank a 15-foot birdie putt on the par-four sixth and then sank two four-foot putts on the next two holes, both par fives. She bogeyed Nos. 10, 15 and 17 to finish three over for the day.

"My putting was much better," said Beard, who had putting troubles in the GSWGA tournament during the final three holes. "Last week, I felt as if my putting had deserted me. When I three-putted the 17th, I began to worry."

Probert, who won the WMGA

Stroke-Play championships in 1981, 1982 and 1984, also had to overcome some difficulties on the front nine.

"I was doing well until the fourth hole," said Probert, who did not compete in the match play tournament last year. "I played the wrong ball and had to take a two-stroke penalty to finish with a triple bogey. After that, I scrambled pretty well."

Probert double bogeyed on the 10th and bogeyed on the 12th and 16th.

QUALIFIERS

Kendra Beard, Essex Fells	38-40-78
Ann Probert, Somerset Hills	42-41-83
Derby Campbell, Canoe Brook	43-40-83
Linda Schnoll, Shackamaxon	44-41-85
Sybil Whitman, Mountain Ridge	41-44-85
Gretchen Calvert, Morris County	43-44-87
Yvonne Thiel, Whipoorwill	40-47-87
Carole Besman, Woodlake	43-44-87
Kay Perrotty, Morris County	44-44-88
Helen Sofferan, Crestmont	44-45-88
Sue Lansdell, Ridgewood	47-41-88
Fran Winans, Canoe Brook	44-45-89
LeeAnn Vogel, Southward Ho	42-47-89
Donna Young, Springdale	45-44-89
Rie Noble, Morris County	43-46-89
Kathleen Doyle, Spring Brook	44-45-89
Honey Miller, Crestmont	44-46-90
Adele Russo, Alpine	46-44-90
Barbara Glucksman, Green Brook	46-44-90
Marianne Farmer, Glen Ridge	44-46-90
Eleanor Siebert, Woodlake	42-49-91
Ellie Dante, Rockaway River	46-46-92
Pat Brooke, Woodlake	45-47-92
Sue Dilley, Essex County	48-44-92
Mary Burniston, Roxiticus	47-46-93
Mary Jane Hartigan, North Hempstead	45-48-93
Bette Zorn, Alpine	47-46-93
Pat Fisher, Maplewood	44-49-93
Mary Holle, Essex County	44-49-93
Lee Berley, Edgewood	44-50-94
Mary McCurdy, Canoe Brook	46-48-94
Evelyn Pyne, Somerset Hills	48-46-94