

By EVERETT MERRILL

Three college women from New York, who made their marks in junior golf as teenagers, earned a share of the lead yesterday at the end of the first day of the ninth Women's Metropolitan Golf Association Stroke Play Championship.

Jean Bartholomew of Garden City, Margaret Platt of Knollwood and Adrienne Gilmartin of North Hempstead each finished the day at four-over-par 76 to lead the field of 66 at the North Jersey Country Club in Wayne. But 14 of the top 20, all grouped within 10 strokes, are from New Jersey.

Harriet Hart of Silver Spring, N.Y., a former pro who was a New Jersey Amateur and Met stroke and match play champion when she played at Baltusrol, and Karen Noble of Morris County, a sophomore at Wake Forest, are in contention one shot behind the leaders. The defending champion and a four-time winner of the tournament, Ann Probert of Somerset Hills, is at 80.

The final 18 holes of the championship will be held today at the 5,713-yard course.

The 20-year-old Gilmartin, the WMGA junior champion in 1981 and 1982, anchored her round when she sank the first hole-in-one of her career. Using an eight iron on the 125-yard fourth hole, she hit the back of the green and it rolled in.

"Actually, I didn't see it go in," said the political science major at Stanford University. "I knew if it was on the back of the green, I'd be left with an awful mean putt. When we went down to the green, my caddie shouted that it was in the hole!"

Gilmartin, who was the WMGA girls' champion in 1981 and 1982, sank

an eight-foot putt for a birdie on the 127-yard eighth hole.

"I had it really going on the front nine," said Gilmartin, who was two under at the turn. "But, I had a hard time on the back nine.

"I didn't hit too many greens and I couldn't get up and down on some of those hills."

Bartholomew, 19, a sophomore at Duke University, like Gilmartin and Platt, was a Met junior winner — in 1984. She's also the current Met match play champion.

"We all know each other from playing in different tournaments," pointed out the 5-10 Bartholomew. "It's very competitive."

Bartholomew, who played four sports while at Garden City High School in Long Island and is the only athlete to score over 1,000 points in basketball there, has been playing golf for eight years.

Bartholomew's round was highlighted by an eagle-three at the 414-yard sixth hole. She used a six-iron to reach the green, then sank a 20-foot putt.