

Quartet tie, face first

WMGA title playoff

By EVERETT MERRILL

Hatsy Hart has no qualms about playing against youngsters with a golf championship at stake.

She was a champion during her amateur days as a member of the Baltusrol Golf Club and spent a period as a touring pro with the LPGA before she returned to the amateur ranks as a member of the Silver Spring Country Club in Ridgefield, Conn.

Yesterday, the veteran shot a 39-39-78 for an aggregate of 155 to earn a spot in the first playoff for the championship in the nine-year history of the Women's Metropolitan Golf Association Stroke Play Tournament at the North Jersey Country Club in Wayne with three standout college competitors.

Hart, a former club champion at Baltusrol, finished the 36 holes of regular play at 77-78 tied with Karen Noble of Morris County (77-78) and New Yorkers Margaret Platt of Knollwood (76-79) and Adrienne Gilmartin (76-79) of North Hempstead.

An 18-hole playoff for the championship will be held tomorrow at North Jersey.

Hart, at 77, trailed Platt and Jean Bartholomew of Garden City, N.Y., by a stroke after the opening round. Bartholomew skied to a second-round 86 to finish in a tie for seventh with Natalie Scarpa of North Jersey at 162.

Ann Probert of Somerset Hills, the defending champion and four times a winner of the tournament, finished three shots behind the leaders in fourth place with an 80-78-158 in the field of 66.

The 18-year-old Platt, a sophomore at Auburn University and the WMGA junior champion in 1985 and girls' champion in 1984 and 1985, had a chance to win the tournament on the 18th hole, but a 20-foot putt for a birdie rolled wide.

"I just ran it a little long," explained Platt, who shot 40-39-79 on the

5,713-yard, par-72 course. "I really didn't expect to be in a playoff. I thought my second-round score wasn't low enough."

Hart, the WMGA match play champion in 1970 and the Garden State Women's Golf Association stroke play winner in 1973 who played the tour in 1975, posted rounds of 77 and 78 while Gilmartin carded a 76-79. Noble's mother, Rie, a long-time rival of Hart, finished at 81-83-164.

"This is just like old times for me," said Hart, who earned her tour card when she was 40. "These girls are even younger than my own kids. I got used to playing against the younger kids on the tour.

"I guess there's no doubt about it. I have the experience. But golf is tricky. You never know what might happen."

Hart had the only birdie posted by the leading four yesterday. She sank a 10-footer on the par-four ninth hole.

Noble, 18, who won the Morris County junior girls' tournament in 1983, 1984 and 1985, had a rough time on the back nine in her 39-39-78. She bogeyed the par-four 16th, double-bogeyed the par-five 17th and took a bogey five on the 18th.

"I started thinking about my swing," conceded Noble, a sophomore at Wake Forest. "I knew the scores were pretty close and I got nervous and panicked."

The 20-year-old Gilmartin, the WMGA junior champion in 1981 and 1982, struggled through the second round with a 42-37 after shooting the first hole-in-one of her career on opening day.

"I've had a lot of playoff experience," said the petite Gilmartin, a political science major at Stanford. "I hope I can just regroup after a bad second round."

Adrienne Gilmartin, North Hempstead (N.Y.)	76-79-155
Hatsy Hart, Silver Spring (Conn.)	77-78-155
Karen Noble, Morris County	77-78-155
Margaret Platt, Knollwood (N.Y.)	76-79-155
Ann Probert, Somerset Hills	80-78-158
Helen Aitken, Montclair	80-81-161
Jean Bartholomew, Garden City (N.Y.)	76-86-162
Natalie Scarpa, North Jersey	79-83-162
Rie Noble, Morris County	81-83-164
Derbie Campbell, Canoe Brook	81-84-165
Sybil Whitman, Mountain Ridge	82-84-166
Susan Wolf, Harbor Hills (N.Y.)	82-85-167
Lee Ann Vogel, Southward Ho (N.Y.)	86-82-168
Yvonne Thiel, Whipoorwill (N.Y.)	87-82-169
Donna Young, Springdale	83-87-170
Tammy Lohren, North Shore (N.Y.)	86-84-170
Kendra Beard, Essex Fells	87-83-170
Ruth Goldzier, Cold Spring (N.Y.)	87-84-171
Denise Preston, Echo Lake	82-89-171
Valerie DePiro, Montclair	84-88-172