

Noble wins WMGA crown by 2

*Morris County woman
overcomes shaky start*

By JOHN RUYZAM

Karen Noble of Morris County, recovering from a double-bogey first hole that could have knocked her out of the chase, was even par the rest of the round for a 75 and a 36-hole total of 149 to win the Women's Metropolitan Golf Association stroke-play championship by two shots over New Yorker Reggie Hawes of Westchester yesterday at the Essex County Country Club in West Orange.

Noble, 21, runner-up to Pearl Sinn in the U.S. Amateur last summer, and Hawes had tied for the lead with one-over-par 74s in Monday's first round. Yesterday, the Purchase, N.Y., golfer three-putted four greens en route to a 77 and a 151 finish.

Ann Probert of Somerset Hills, who has been playing golf for 36 years, posted the lowest round of the day, a 35-39-74 over the 5,680-yard course, and swept into third place at 152. The New Vernon resident won the Elizabeth Goss Round Robin championship two

weeks ago for the third time and is one of the most titled golfers in the metropolitan area. She won the WMGA stroke-play crown in 1981, '82, '84 and '85.

New Yorker Jean Bartholomew, last year's stroke-play winner, was not on hand to defend the title.

Noble, a blond, 5-4, 125-pounder, winner of the New Jersey Amateur in 1987 and '88 and the WMGA match-play championship in June, regarded her stroke-play victory as a good prep for the U.S. Amateur next week at Pinhurst, N.C.

"I've been playing in a lot of match-play tournaments lately, and it was good to compete in stroke play this time, because that's how the U.S. Amateur begins, with 36 holes of stroke play before the cut is made to 64 and match-play begins," explained Noble, who was graduated in May from Wake Forest, where she played No. 1 on the golf team and was selected as most valuable player and the top female athlete at the school.

"Stroke play helps me to concen-

trate more. You can't afford to make big numbers. In match play, if you do poorly on one hole, you just lose that hole."

Noble qualified for the North and South, Western and the Broadmoor tournaments but didn't fare well in them. She missed qualifying for the U.S. Open at the Indianwood Golf and Country Club in Lake Orion, Mich., two weeks ago but said participating in it boosted her confidence.

"I saw that I could hit the ball as far and as accurate as the pros and I learned a lot," Karen said. "I learned how to handle the pressure. But the pros have a better short game and mental game than I do."

Noble experienced an up-and-down front side. On the par four, 320-yard first hole, she hit a poor drive and later three-putted for a six. She birdied the second with a five-foot putt, but again three-putted, for a bogey, on the third. After a three-foot birdie putt on the fifth, her third three-putter cost a bogey on the sixth.

"After that, I hit every green ex-

cept the 18th," she related.

On the backside, she birdied the par-five 10th, reaching the green in two, but bogeyed the finishing hole.

Hawes is a former New York Tri-County and Wheeler Open champion. She won the 1980 International Four-Ball crown and was runner-up in this year's event last January in Florida. She will take part in her fourth Canadian Amateur in August.

"I didn't manage the course very well today," she lamented. "I put myself in terrible spots and became mentally tired fighting bad putts all day long."

Those "bad putts" came on the third, fourth, eighth and 18th, where she needed three strokes each time. She

Karen Noble, Morris County	74-75-149
Reggie Hawes, Westchester (N.Y.)	74-77-151
Ann Probert, Somerset Hills	78-74-152
Karen Durkin, Westchester (N.Y.)	78-75-153
Lee Ann Vogel, Southward Ho (N.Y.)	78-75-153
Barbara Young, Aspetuck (Conn.)	75-80-155
Terry Simione, Nassau (N.Y.)	79-77-156
Derbie Campbell, Canoe Brook	78-79-157
Laura Imburgia, Bonnie Briar (N.Y.)	80-80-160
Helen Aitken, Montclair	77-84-161
Linda Schnoll, Shackamaxon	78-84-162
Jean Crawford, Apawamis (N.Y.)	83-79-162
Valerie DePiro, Montclair	79-84-163
Rie Noble, Morris County	81-88-169
Ann Beard, Essex Fells	84-86-170
Isa Von Hessert, Knickerbocker	83-88-171
Ikuko Ishizaka, Bonnie Briar (N.Y.)	86-86-172
Mariko Bridgewater, Essex County	89-83-172
Mary Holle, Essex County	87-86-173
Kay Perrotty, Morris County	90-84-174
Loretta Coleman, Stanwich (Conn.)	83-92-175
Sheila Solomon, Alpine	89-87-176
Valerie Flora, St. George's (N.Y.)	90-86-176
Virginia Dillon, Somerset Hills	87-90-177

birdied the second and 15th but double-bogeyed the 12th, where she was bunkered.

Probert said she is looking forward to the State Amateur next week at Baltusrol and, with the way she's performing, it's easy to see why.

"I've always struggled with my putter but lately I've been doing well and I'm hitting the ball well," she beamed. "It's very encouraging."

Probert birdied the second, fifth and eighth holes with putts ranging from five to 30 feet, although she bogeyed the fourth with three putts for an out-going 35. She double-bogeyed 11 when she hit over the green and "had trouble getting back," and bogeyed 12 with a poor chip shot.

Phyllis Siegel, Shackamaxon	88-89-177
Denise Preston, Echo Lake	90-88-178
Bette Zorn, Alpine	93-85-178
Maureen Ermer, Roxiticus	90-89-179
Bette Ann Valick, Nissequaque (N.Y.)	90-89-179
Mary McCurdy, Baltusrol	92-90-182
Gloria Karlitz, Fresh Meadow (N.Y.)	92-90-182
Ann Lanyi, Roxiticus	91-93-184
Sue Dilley, Essex County	94-90-184
Nancy Gitkin, Preakness Hills	94-90-184
Beanie Kelley, Somerset Hills	96-89-185
Joan Appleby, Deal	93-93-186
Claire Ayden, Essex County	94-92-186
Jeanne Clay, Rockville Links (N.Y.)	94-92-186
Shirley Loud, Metuchen	95-93-188
Ruth McClure, Apawamis (N.Y.)	102-87-189
Frances Winans, Canoe Brook	93-96-189
Sue Halper, Montclair	95-96-191
Honey Miller, Crestmont	94-97-191
Francine Finger, Montammy	96-96-192
Cornelia Forrence, Essex County	101-96-197
Phyllis Weiss, Shackamaxon	100-97-197
Gloria Guarliglia, Essex County	95-103-198
Virginia MacDonald, Montclair	100-99-199