

Noble tops Eichhorn, 5 and 4, faces Hawes in today's final

GREAT NECK, N.Y. — Karen Noble of the Morris County Golf Club in Convent Station, N.J., continued her quest for a third straight title in the Women's Metropolitan Golf Association Match-Play Championship yesterday at the Fresh Meadow Country Club with a 5-and-4 victory over fellow New Jerseyan Mary Eichhorn of Spring Lake in the semifinal round.

The 22-year-old Noble, a member of the U.S. Curtis Cup team that will compete against Great Britain/Ireland on July 28-29 at the Somerset Hills Country Club in Bernardsville, N.J., will face Westchester's Reggia Hawes in today's 36-hole final at the 5,873-yard course. Hawes, a runner-up to Noble in last year's WMGA Stroke-Play Championship, eliminated Mercedes Lacroze of Meadow Brook, 3 and 2.

"I'm playing really well right now and feel confident in my game holding up," said Noble, who has lost just three holes in her first four matches. "I just have to continue playing steady and hit the greens in regulation."

Noble, who defeated Eichhorn in last year's final, fell, 1 down, early when the latter birdied the first hole, but took a 3-up lead after winning the fourth hole and the sixth through eighth holes with pars. She also won the 10th and 11th holes with pars before closing the match when she halved the 14th with par.

"I'm going to go out there and continue to try hitting the fairways and greens and hope my opponent makes the mistakes," said Noble, the 1988 U.S. Women's Amateur runner-up. "I just have to play like I have all week."

