

# Met golfers humble French amateurs

By Rick Remsnyder

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SPRINGFIELD, N.J. — The Ryder Cup isn't the only thing American golfers retrieved this year.

One year after suffering a humiliating 15-5 defeat in France, a team of Metropolitan Golf Association golfers defeated the visiting French amateurs 14½-5½ yesterday in the second annual French/American Challenge Golf Match at Baltusrol Golf Club's Lower Course.

In last year's inaugural competition at Chantilly Golf Course near Paris, the Met women's team failed to win a point in eight matches. It proved to be too much for the American men to overcome as the French wound up easily winning the two-day affair.

A younger and stronger team of American women made amends this year, outscoring the French 5½-2½.

The six-man/four-woman American team got outstanding contributions from several Westchester County golfers.

Karen Durkin, a 26-year-old Westchester Country Club member, and 38-year-old Mount Kisco Country Club member Joe Sommers were undefeated in three matches in the two-day team and individual competition.

With the Americans leading 7-3 heading into yesterday's final of 10 singles matches, both Durkin and Sommers scored early wins to clinch the Fred Cup, a handsome trophy that is donated to the winning team by international jeweler Fred Joaillier who sponsors the international event.

Durkin, who like Sommers is a Stamford, Conn., resident, birdied the 16th hole from five feet to wrap up a 3-and-2 win over Frenchwoman Carole Marty.

"It was a great honor just to be considered for the team and to play in international competition," Durkin said. "It's some-

thing I'll remember for the rest of my life."

Playing in the next-to-last match of the day, Sommers made short work of Pascal Grizot, a semifinalist in the 1989 French Amateur Championship.

Sommers, a relative newcomer to golf, played Baltusrol's difficult 3,443-yard front nine in 2-under-par 34 to assume a commanding 5-up lead. He cruised to a 5-and-4 win.

Long Islander John Baldwin, the 1990 MGA player of the year, said Sommers' gutsy play was a key to the American victory.

"This was Joe's first time in meaningful international competition and you'd expect him to be a little tight," Baldwin said. "But he played like a seasoned veteran. He was really pumped up for this."

Sommers said it was easy to play in Friday's opening team matches because he was paired with Baldwin and Jerry Cour-

ville, the two-time defending Ike champion. Sommers said he felt Baltusrol's length (7,138 yards) suited a power game perfectly.

"If you're not getting off the tee, this course will eat you alive," he said.

French non-playing captain Dominique Bonnet agreed the Americans had the advantage at Baltusrol. He plans to restructure his squad next year with an eye toward landing players who can hit the long ball.

"The Americans hit the ball very long," Bonnet said. "Next year we must get some players who can hit the ball farther. Also, our players had a hard time adjusting to the thick rough around the greens. We don't have that in France."

Gail Flanagan (USA) def. Anne Lanrezac, 3 and 2; Karen Durkin (USA) def. Carole Marty, 3 and 2; Laurence Rozner (FRA) def. Donna Young, 2 and 1; Lisa Griffin (USA) def. Geraldine Spencer, 3 and 2; George Zahringer III (USA) def. Francois Ilouz, 5 and 3; John Baldwin (USA) def. Michel Gayon, 2 and 1; Jeff Thomas (USA) def. Gregoire Brizay, 5 and 4; Olivier Dupas (FRA) def. Dick Siderowf, 2-up; Joe Sommers (USA) def. Pascal Grizot, 5 and 4; Jerry Courville (USA) halved with Christophe Ravetto.