

American golfers prepare to avenge loss to French

By Rick Remsnyder

Staff Writer

SPRINGFIELD, N.J. —In the past week, a visiting French team has been wined and dined by its American hosts prior to the second annual French/American Challenge Golf Match. Dinners, receptions and trips to night clubs and museums have highlighted the foreigners' stay in the metropolitan area.

But the partying is over as the two-day international competition gets under way today at Baltusrol Golf Club.

A six-man, four-woman Metropolitan Golf Association and Women's MGA team is out to avenge last year's 15-5 loss on French soil.

The Americans have fielded a much stronger contingent this year with the addition of seven-time MGA Amateur Player of the Year George Zahringer III of Greenwich and Joe Som-

mers of Mount Kisco Country Club. Dick Siderowf of Century Country Club is the playing captain.

The women's team, which was blanked in last year's event, fields an all-new lineup that includes Karen Durkin and Gail Flanagan of Westchester Country Club, Lisa Griffin of Greenwich CC and Donna Young of Springdale (N.J.) GC.

The three other American men are two-time defending Ike champion Jerry Courville Jr. of Shorehaven (Conn.) GC, 1990 MGA player of the year John Baldwin of the Meadow Brook (L.I.) Club and seven-time New Jersey State Amateur titlist Jeff Thomas of Plainfield West.

A year ago, the Americans admittedly underestimated the French. They aren't making the same mistake twice.

"We went over there thinking we were a little

better on paper and we all discovered we had our hands full once we went out on the golf course," Baldwin said. "We learned the French are great competitors."

Platt has shot at card

Hastings-on-Hudson pro Margaret Platt moved into contention for an LPGA Tour playing card by firing a 1-under-par 71 in yesterday's third round of the 72-hole women's professional qualifying school.

Heading into today's final round, Platt is in a tie for 18th place at 5-over 221, five shots off the lead at the par-72 Indigo Lakes Hilton Golf and Tennis Resort in Daytona Beach, Fla. Platt's first two rounds were 73 and 77.

The low 30 scorers will receive LPGA playing cards and exempt status for the 1992 season.

The 54-hole cut was 12 over 228.