

Met golfers take four-match lead

By Rick Remsnyder

Staff Writer

SPRINGFIELD, N.J. — The home-country advantage is proving to be quite a benefit to Metropolitan Golf Association competitors in the second annual French/American Challenge Golf Match at Baltusrol Golf Club's Lower Course.

After being hammered 15-5 on French soil in last year's inaugural team event, the six-man, four-woman American squad has a commanding 7-3 lead going into today's concluding singles matches.

The American team needs just 3½ points (three victories and a tie) in the 10 matches to take back the Fred Cup, the magnificent trophy which is given to the winning team.

Amateurs from the metropolitan area are representing the U.S. in the competition against some of France's best amateurs.

"I certainly like our chances," said Long Islander John Baldwin, one of four Americans on the losing end of the 1990 matches. "But the French are all decent players. If we all go out and play average and they play well tomorrow, we could still lose."

The Americans forged a 4-1 lead in yesterday morning's alternate-shot matches and then won three of four best-ball matches to pick up three more points.

Baldwin said the Americans were concerned about how they'd fare in the alternate-shot format, which is rarely played in this country. He said

it was an encouraging sign to take the big early edge into afternoon play.

"I think they're one player weaker and we're one player stronger," he said. "Plus, we're playing on our home turf. It's nice to be able to sleep in your own bed at night."

The team of Karen Durkin of Westchester Country Club and Donna Young of Springdale (N.J.) Golf Club combined for two victories.

Alternate shot

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

Best ball

Ravetto-Dupas (FRA) def. Baldwin-Zahringer, 1-up; Sommers-Courville Jr. (USA) def. Brizay-Gayon, 4 and 3; Siderowf-Thomas (USA) def. Illouz-Grizot, 3 and 2; Durkin-Young (USA) def. Marty-Rozner, 4 and 2; Lanzerac-Spencer (FRA) def. Griffin-Flanagan, 1-up.