

**Wojnas captures  
WMGA qualifier  
medal with 79**

**By JOHN RUYZAM**

While Maura Waters of Montclair seeks mental toughness and a competitive edge, Allison Wojnas of Plainfield appears to have found them.

The 24-year-old Wojnas, playing Knickerbocker in Tenafly for the first time yesterday, fired a five-over-par 79 to grab the qualifying medal in the Women's Metropolitan Golf Association 91st Match-Play Championship.

Waters, 29, the men's golf coach at Rutgers, posted an 80 on the narrow 5,851-yard course and shared the runner-up spot with Helen Aitken, also of Montclair, and Cherry Marshall of Arcola.

Fifteen in the field of 58 carded 84 or lower and will join defending-champion Lee Ann Vogel of New York's Southward Ho for the match-play portion of the championship flight today. The first round and quarterfinals will be played today, with the semifinals scheduled for tomorrow. The 36-hole final will be held on Thursday.

Wojnas, a 1992 Notre Dame graduate from Warren, won the 1991 state Amateur championship and was the runner-up in '92. She also claimed the 1993 Garden State Women's Golf Association Elizabeth Goss Memorial crown.

She has qualified for the WMGA Match-Play three times, winning the medal last season before losing in the semifinals to runner-up Caroline Salas of Piping Rock, N.Y.

This year, Wojnas has played in Golf Illustrated events at New York's Quaker Ridge in tri-matches involving New Jersey, Long Island and Westchester teams and in the Griscom Cup in Philadelphia involving squads from the WMGA, Boston and Philadelphia.

"I competed in a total of four matches in those tournaments and won them all," said Wojnas, who has a 1.4 handicap. "It helped today that I played in them. I guess I've played about 15 18-hole rounds this year. I try to get to the club about four times a week, after work and on weekends, and hit some balls."

Since it was her first visit to Knickerbocker, Wojnas admitted that she had difficulty aiming her tee shots and judging the speeds on the fast and undulating greens, although she required only 31 putts.

"Some of my drives were out of position," she said. "I had problems with my first putts and had to make four- and five-footers coming back."

Going out, Wojnas parred every hole except the third where she belted her drive behind a tree and double bogeyed. Her only three-putt green came on the 10th where she bogeyed. But she got it right back on the ensuing hole with an 18-footer for a birdie. However, she hit her drive into the water on the 12th, missed the green on

the 14th and found the woods with her tee shot on the 16th, all resulting in bogeys.

"I'm satisfied with the way I played and I'm looking forward to match play." Wojnas stated. "I prefer the match-play format because you can take more chances and there's less pressure. If you shoot a big number on a hole, you only lose that hole."

Waters, who resides in Hoboken, won the 1992 state Amateur championship and was the runner-up in '88 to Karen Noble, now on the LPGA Tour. Waters also won the 1988 Garden State Women's Golf Association's Stroke-Play and teamed with Mary Eichhorn of Spring Lake to win the 1991 WMGA Better-Ball. She has qualified for the WMGA Match-Play six times and was the runnerup to Noble in 1988.

Waters has competed in WMGA club matches with her Montclair team, but is searching for mental toughness.

"I was tentative on the front and steering the ball off the tee." she said. "I haven't played that much and, right now, I'm not mentally tough and don't have that competitive edge. But match-play will be starting and that's just what I need. I need that head-to-head competition and I expect to get tougher and tougher."

What Waters doesn't lack is confidence

"I feel I'm one of the best players here and that I can win it."

She birdied the third and 12th with six-foot putts, but sprayed drives to wind up with bogeys on the first, second and fifth. She bogeyed the seventh with three putts, double bogeyed the ninth with a poor approach and three putts and also double bogeyed the 15th with a sprayed drive and three putts.

Aitken said she's working on her swing, trying to turn her hands over more, and is pleased with the results.

"I really didn't expect much, but I'm happy with my 80," Aitken said. "The change in my swing has helped."

She has participated in the WMGA Match-Play 16 times, won the medal on two occasions and her best finish was an appearance in the semifinals. She is a three-time winner of the Garden State Women's Golf Association's Goss Memorial.

Allison Wojnas, Plainfield	37-42-79
Maura Waters, Montclair	40-40-80
Helen Aitken, Montclair	39-41-80
Cherry Marshall, Arcola	39-41-80
Robin Rombough, Montclair	36-45-81
Sherry Herman, Shore	40-41-81
Anna Bakst, Sunningdale (N.Y.)	40-42-82
Donna Young, Springdale	38-44-82
Mary Eichhorn, Spring Lake	40-43-83
Barbara Hulke, Roxiticus	39-44-83
Mercedes Lacroze, Meadow Brook	42-42-84
Valerie Flora, St. George's (N.Y.)	41-43-84
Sarah Cohn, Fresh Meadow (N.Y.)	41-43-84
Josephine Friebely, Bamm Hollow	43-41-84
Janet Oberhelman, Knickerbocher	41-43-84