

Steady Griffin conquers tough tract

By KEVIN T. CZERWINSKI

Staff Writer

MAMARONECK, N.Y. — Greenwich's Lisa Griffin wasn't looking to light up the East Course at Winged Foot on Wednesday afternoon during the final round of the Women's Metropolitan Golf Association Stroke Play Championship.

She knew it wasn't necessary. The lesser known of the two tracts at the fabled course can be just as unforgiving as its more infamous sibling, Winged Foot West. That was evident after Tuesday's opening round in which no golfer broke 80.

The game plan was to stay just a few shots over par and play steady heading into the final 18 holes. It proved to be the right plan as Griffin fired a 4-over 77 and finished at 160 to capture her first Stroke Play crown. She edged Newton's Diana D'Alessio, who fired a 78 and finished at 164.

"I was very surprised seeing the scores that were posted Tuesday," Grif-

fin said. "I got off the course after shooting an 83 and it was uplifting to see that I was still right in the thick of it. I think everyone had their demons yesterday. All the evil twins showed up to play."

Griffin began the day three shots behind Ann Enstine of Shinnecock. Enstine, however, quickly faded and it became apparent that Griffin, D'Alessio, and Lee Ann Vogel of Southward Ho would vie for the crown.

"I just decided to bear down and try for par because this course was hard on everyone, not just me," Griffin said. "I was using my 3-wood a lot and hitting them straight. I've been struggling with my 3-iron so I hit a lot of woods today and made some very nice pars.

"I have a very good short game and that helped me with those pars. My short game was my savior. I also made some great two putts to save par."

The 143-yard sixth hole proved to be a microcosm of Griffin's day as she showed off her short game with a birdie,

chipping in from 12 feet in some fairly heavy rough.

The victory adds to what has already been a solid year for Griffin. She made it to the finals of the WMGA Match Play championship last month at Cherry Valley before losing to D'Alessio. She played in the British Amateur and advanced to match play. She placed fifth in last week's Women's Met Open at Fenway. She also was eighth in the prestigious North-South Amateur.

The victory almost assures her a spot on the American team that will travel to France in September for the annual French-American Challenge. A successful defense of her Rhode Island Amateur title next week likely will cement her position on the team.

Defending champion Gail Flanagan of Westchester, who won the New York State Amateur last week, finished tied for fifth at 170. Spring Brook's Maura Quinn, a Morristown resident who is an official with the New Jersey State Golf Association, took low net honors at 153.

SCORES

WMGA Stroke Play Championship

at Winged Foot East Course

5,927 yards, par 73

Lisa Griffin, Greenwich	83-77	— 160
Laura Aglero, Bonnie Briar	82-81	— 163
Diana D'Alessio, Newton	86-78	— 164
Sherry Herman, Shore Oaks	87-78	— 165
Lee Ann Vogel, Southward Ho	82-83	— 165
Carol Pitzer, Innis Arden	85-83	— 168
Ann Enstine, Shinnecock	80-89	— 169
Barbara Poanessa, Bonnie Briar	82-88	— 170
Gail Flanagan, Westchester	88-82	— 170
Carol Salas, Piping Rock	87-83	— 170
Becky Montgelas, Wee Burn	85-86	— 171
Helen Stovell, Fairfield	86-89	— 175
Elyse Workman, North Shore	83-92	— 175
Allison Kucinski, Plainfield	89-87	— 176
Mary Elchorn, Spring Lake	88-89	— 177
Beth Ann Vallick, Nissequoque	90-87	— 177
Maura Quinn, Spring Brook	87-90	— 177
Jean Schob, Winged Foot	84-94	— 178
Mercedes LaCroze, Meadow Brook	90-89	— 179
Lynn McCarthy, Baltusrol	88-91	— 179
Denise Martorana, Southhampton	90-90	— 180
Whitney Fossilico, Huntington Crescent	79-83	— 182
Kate Fisher, Meadow Brook	89-93	— 182
Linda Leahy, Brookville	89-94	— 183
Mary King, Plainfield	91-92	— 183
Phoebe Timpson, Meadow Brook	90-93	— 183
Kille Keever, Woodway	98-86	— 184
Barbara Bloda, Burning Tree	88-96	— 184
Barbara Mangone, Upper Montclair	96-88	— 184
Val Flora, St. George's	90-94	— 184