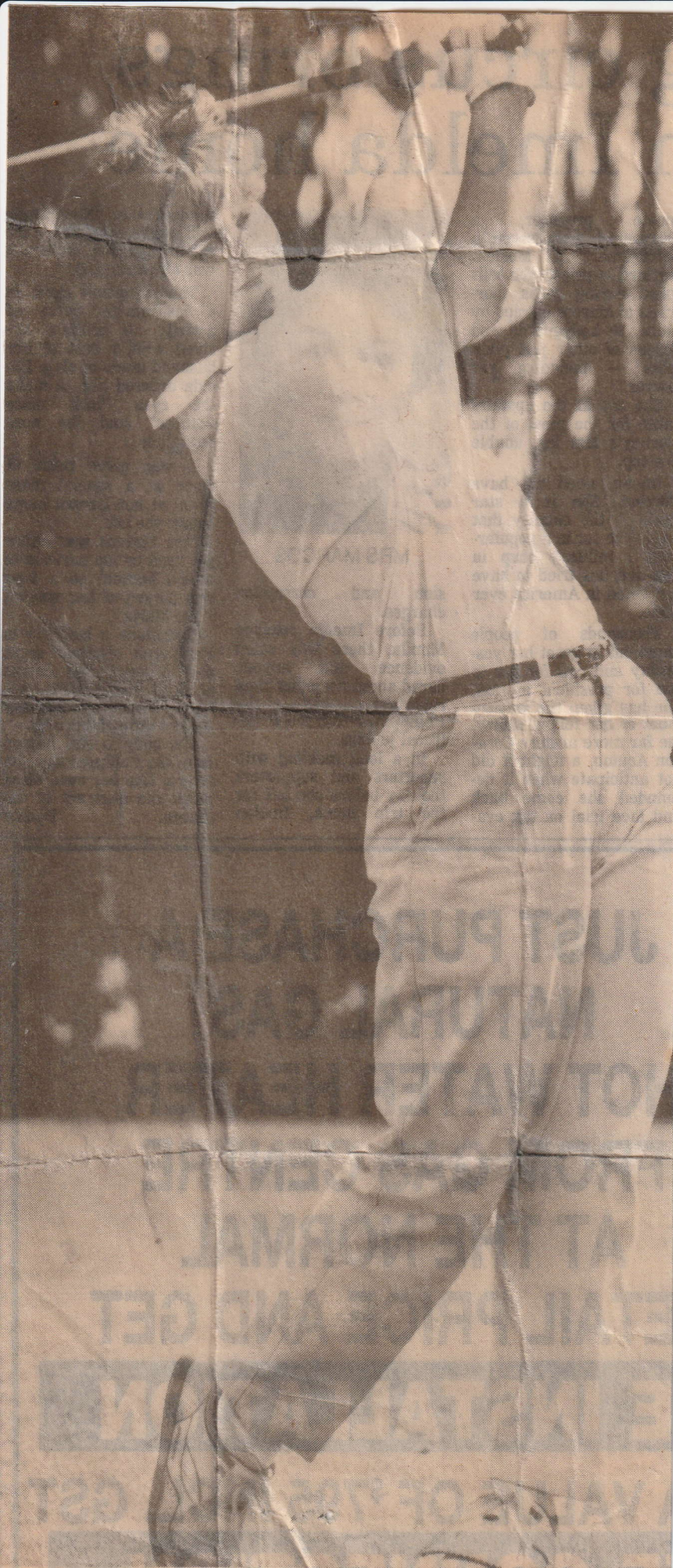




NEW Zealand champion Lynnette Brooky in outstanding form on her way to a 3-1 win in the first day of the Tasman Cup at Mt Maunganui yesterday.

Crowd boosts Brooky to win

Wellington's Lynnette Brooky was swamped by family and friends after denying Australian Loraine Lambert her third successive New Zealand women's matchplay golf title in New Plymouth yesterday.

The 36-hole championship final at the Ngamotu links went to the wire, with Brooky claiming her second national matchplay crown with a one-up win to go with her 1990 success.

"Brilliant" was how the Manor Park golfer described the win. "I loved the crowd. They made me play and made me smile. They kept me going. No way was I going to lose. I just kept on saying to myself: 'Do I want to win?'"

With vocal support from family and relations, Brooky said winning the title was special.

"It means the title stays in New Zealand and that's great. I'm just so rapt to have won. I put so much heart and soul into it. Loraine's a brilliant player and a good player to play with. She's full of smiles."

For Lambert, defeat was tough to swallow. She made no secret of the fact that she wanted three matchplay titles on end.

"I just couldn't get a putt; they never looked like dropping. Tee to green I couldn't complain. I played faultless golf over the closing holes but the putts didn't drop. That's how it goes."

Lambert hinted a switch to the professional ranks was near.

"There's not much more I want to do as an amateur. As an amateur you're living on a shoe-string budget. You can't do that forever."

The final started evenly and after nine holes it was all square. Lambert gained an edge on the par-five 10th but a lost ball on the par-three 12th upset her concentration and she promptly dropped the next three holes to trail by three.

Lambert regained some ground with a win on the 16th and went to lunch two down.

Brooky started slowly in the

afternoon, round, dropping the first two holes to pars.

"But I was always confident. After topping my second and only just making the fourth green, I said to John [her brother and caddy] that it would be funny if I holed the putt for a birdie and that's what I did."

The birdie fired up Brooky. It was just as well, as Lambert produced a birdie barrage on three successive holes from the sixth to the eighth.

Brooky was up to the occasion, though, matching Lambert



Brooky - heart-and-soul game

on the sixth and seventh, although the match was all square when she lost the eighth.

Brooky bounced back with wins at nine and 11 to lead two up. Lambert levelled the match again on the 13th with a superb birdie three and the pair went shot for shot over the next two holes.

Eventually Brooky nailed the title with a 3.5m birdie putt on the par-four 16th.

In the end, the putt proved the difference between the two with both players missing birdie attempts from handy distances on the final two holes.

North Shore's Emma Keeling won the New Zealand plate title by beating Denise Booker of Australia.

Earlier in the day, Booker edged out another Australian Anne-Marie Knight one up, while Keeling was taken to the 19th by fellow New Zealand international Gina Scott.

● Auckland's Annette Stott, absent from the international scene for a year, was included in the New Zealand women's golf squad announced yesterday.

The squad is: Lisa Aldridge (Palm Nth), Joanna Crockery (Akl), Susan Farron (Manawatu), Renee Fowler (Rotorua), Emma Keeling (Akl), Catherine Knight (Tim), Gina Scott (Kawhia), Kerryn Starr (Chch). — NZPA