

Teenager helps Japan upset Cup favorites New Zealand

A WONDERFUL even par final round of 72 by 16-year-old Mayumi Nakajima helped Japan hold off pre-tournament favorites New Zealand by four strokes in an exciting finish to the Queen Sirikit Cup at the Vines Resort yesterday.

Led by individual winner Lynette Brooky, New Zealand drew level with Japan with five holes to play only to fall away immediately when Brooky hooked viciously to bogey the 15th, and New Zealand teammate Lisa Aldridge gambled off the tee on the par four 14th and bunkered for a disastrous double bogey six.

While the New Zealanders probably should have won but for their poor opening rounds, brave play by the youthful Japanese stole the win.

Second round leader Yoko Inoue crashed on the front nine, and with two of the three players' scores counting, the pressure fell firmly onto her young teammates.

Still a schoolgirl, Nakajima was faultless off the tee and putted truly for five birdies.

It was her third team member, 21-year-old College student Mikako Kanamori, who picked up the pace when New Zealand challenged, wedging to half a metre for birdie on the 291 metre 17th, and recovering from the late edge at the last before holing from five metres for par, and a final round of 74.

The Australian team, which began the last

By GLENN CARBON

round one shot behind Japan, started badly and never challenged seriously.

A final hole bogey by NSW Jeannette Mills cost her the chance to tie with Brooky for the individual honours, and also slipped Australia down to third position behind New Zealand.

Pumped up after a birdie on 17, Mills was ideally placed in the middle of the 18th fairway but pitched clear over the green, and was unable to recover.

Brooky was the class player of the tournament, firmly in control of herself and all departments of her game.

The holder of the New Zealand and Australian 72-hole stroke-play titles, Brooky had a well deserved touch of good luck at the final hole when her three wood second shot shaved the Lakeside bullrushes, finishing high and dry by the harest margin.

West Australian star Ericka Jayatilaka failed to fire throughout, disappointing following her fourth placing in last year's world title. With her putting marginally astray throughout, Jayatilaka scored 80, 78, 76 to finish 13th.



□ New Zealand champion Lynette Brooky in action in the Queen Sirikit Cup at the Vines Resort yesterday.