

Lyn comes from behind to win matchplay title

From **BOB PEARCE**

Paraparaumu

Twenty-two-year-old Lyn Brooky from the Grange Golf Club in Papatoetoe showed incredible strength of character to win the national matchplay title at Paraparaumu yesterday.

She overcame some of the most atrocious weather seen in a national final to beat Terrill Samuel of Canada at the 37th hole.

Brooky, who had her first senior representative game for Auckland only six months ago, was one down with two to play.

She got down in two from off the fringe to win the 35th and repeated the feat for a half at the 36th where Samuel's length of the tee offered her a birdie chance which went begging.

Brooky played the first extra hole immaculately. Her drive found the centre of the fairway on the 371m par five. She hit a five wood to within 20 feet of the pin and almost sank that putt for an eagle.

Samuel, who had strayed to the right from the tee, conceded the winning birdie after her own attempt from 15 feet was wide.

"Whatever the weather was, I played with it not against it," said an elated Brooky later.

"I came down here a week early but I didn't play much because I knew I would really need my best at the end.

"Dad thought I was ready to win the championship but didn't think so.

"When she got ahead of me at the end I thought the last thing I'm going to do is give up

and when I got that great lie for my second on the 37th I knew I was just going to hit it sweetly. I just could not miss it."

Brooky described her approach to the tension of her first big championship as "leaving it to my subconscious."

The first 18 holes were played in appalling weather. The south-westerly howled across the course, this time driving freezing rain which threatened to flood the greens.

Samuel, a 29-year-old from Toronto who had earlier won the strokeplay title, clearly let the conditions get to her.

By the 10th hole she was two down and struggling to hold on to her clubs.

The 11th was flooded and the Canadian reckoned the final should

have been suspended there and then.

"I thought the greens were unplayable but she was putting so well so they must have been OK," said Samuel later.

"I couldn't handle it this morning but that was my own fault."

Samuel admitted that at several points she had thought of quitting as her wet weather gear became waterlogged and she got colder and colder.

By the 17th Brooky was four up, sometimes because of her opponent's lapses but often through an immaculate short game.

Samuel won the 18th and came out for the second 18 a different golfer as the rain eased and the greens drained.

After a lapse at the 20th she whittled away at Brooky's lead, drawing level at the 33rd where both had to tee off into a hailstorm.

The Canadian took the lead for the first time since the second hole when Brooky hooked her teeshot on the short 34th.

But a misread putt allowed the Aucklander back into the match on the 35th and she never faltered again.

Brooky is the first New Zealander since Debbie Smith in 1984 to hold the title. She must now be a contender for the NZI international squad which will be announced after the world team championships in Christchurch next week.

Lisa Aldridge boosted the confidence of the New Zealand team for those championships by beating Canadian Mary Anne Lapointe in the plate final.

The Waddell Rosebowl went to Anne Brown, of Waitikiri, who beat Stella Ellis, of North Shore, in the final.