

Still one off pace

NZPA Sydney

Lynnette Brooky recovered from a bad start to shoot an impressive one-over-par 73 in the second round of the Australian women's strokeplay championship at Brisbane Golf Club yesterday.

Brooky, the defending champion, is on four-over 148 at the half-way point of the 72-hole event, just one stroke behind leader Karrie Webb of Queensland.

Brooky began yesterday's second round with bogeys at the first, second and fifth holes before settling into a groove which saw her produce two birdies and 11 pars over the closing 13 holes.

"I'm playing well here and there," the 26-year-old Wellingtonian said.

"My short game is unreal at the moment which is just as well because I'm hitting the ball really badly."

Webb produced the best round of the tournament to date with a one-under 71 yesterday to leap ahead of Brooky and first-round pace-setter Tracy Guy (Queensland), who slipped back to third, two shots behind Brooky, after shooting a five-over 77.

Level with Guy on 151 is Queensland's Terri McKinnon while three other Australians are a



Lynnette Brooky

further stroke back at eight-over 152, one shot ahead of New Zealander Susan Farron.

The well-performed Palmerston North player carded a two-over 74 yesterday to improve on her first round of seven-over 79.

Catherine Knight (Timaru) was the only other New Zealander to score below 80 yesterday, backing up her opening five-over 77 with a six-over 78.

Christchurch's Kerryn Starr slipped badly off the pace with a nine-over 81 to fall back to 157, two strokes behind Knight, while Aucklanders Joanna Crokery (82), Pam Sowden (81) and Emma Keeling (81) were all on 163.

Brooky values mental course

By GORDON LOMAS

DEFENDING champion Lynnette Brooky will use her mind game to attack Queenslander Karrie Webb in the final round of the Australian Amateur Open at Brisbane Golf Club today.

Ayr-based Webb equalled her second-round course record from Tuesday by firing a one-under 71 yesterday. The round allowed Webb to establish a three-shot lead over New Zealand's Brooky, who has a 221 aggregate after 54 holes.

Brooky's one-over-par 73 reflected her tremendous resolve to maintain consistency and she rates as 50-50 her chances of snaring consecutive titles.

"I plan to go out there and attack," said 26-year-old Brooky. "It's my opinion that golf is a 98 percent mind game and the shots come relatively easily after that. It's all in your inner-self."

"I was happy with my up-and-down game but I tended to drop some silly shots."

Redcliffe's Australian Institute of Sport-based Simone Williams is third on 224 after a par 72, followed by New Zealand's Susan Farron on 226.

South Australian Fiona Pike might be nine shots off the pace but she was responsible for a cracking third-round 71 to equal the mark set by Webb.

Pike was out in par but sailed home with a closing birdie on the 18th after realising her rain-interrupted opening round of 81 has cost her a snug position on the leaderboard.

She lies in fifth place on 227 but still has a chance to upgrade her position if she can find sub-par form.

In Fort Lauderdale, American John Daly, the 1991 US PGA champion, will return from suspension on March 10 at the Honda Classic here.

Golf's longest driver was suspended last November for failing to complete play in the second round of a pro-am event in Hawaii.

Dream round for Brooky

NEW ZEALAND No 1 Lynnette Brooky finished third at the New South Wales women's golf strokeplay championships in North Sydney yesterday.

Brooky shoot a final round three-over-par 75 to be nine shots behind winner Karrie Webb of Queensland.

Alison Wheelhouse of Victoria was second on 303, a stroke ahead of Brooky, while New Zealand's Kerryn Starr took fourth spot after a final 77 left her on 13-over 305.

After her round yesterday, Brooky admitted she had hit the ball, "like a dream."

"I was one-under at the turn but then I three-putted the 11th from 10m which spoiled things a bit," the 26-year-old Wellingtonian said.

Manawatu's Susan Farron, second overnight, had an off-day with her round of eight-over 82 which saw her drop down the field to finish equal fifth on 14-over 306.

Farron was not the only New Zealander to struggle yesterday however, with Lisa Aldridge carding a seven-over 81 to finish on 27-over 319, level with Gina Scott who shot a nine-over 83. — NZPA

Brooky pipped at final hole

QUEENSLANDER Karrie Webb sunk a two-metre pressure putt at the final hole to deny New Zealand's Lynnette Brooky a chance for back-to-back Australian strokeplay titles in Brisbane yesterday. Brooky, beaten by a stroke, finished with a one-under-par 71 yesterday for an impressive 292 total.

Putt edges out Brooky

MELBOURNE. — Queenslander Karrie Webb sunk a two-metre pressure putt at the final hole to deny New Zealand's Lynnette Brooky a chance for back-to-back Australian strokeplay golf titles in Brisbane yesterday.

Brooky started the day three shots behind Webb and twice drew level during a tense final round before sinking a brilliant five-metre birdie putt at the final hole.

That left Webb needing to sink her own birdie putt to avoid a sudden-death playoff, which she did.

Brooky admitted she had been "hopeful" Webb would miss the putt but was quick to praise her opponent's ability. "It was a great round today but pretty frustrating for me," Brooky said. "We both played really well, but full credit to Karrie, she's a great player." — NZPA



SHORTS

Brooky in hunt

New Zealand's Lynnette Brooky remains one stroke off the pace at the halfway point of the 72-hole NSW amateur women's strokeplay golf championship in Sydney. Brooky shot a one-over-par 75 yesterday to sit at 149.

Brooky, Starr off to flying start in Sydney

LYNETTE BROOKY and Kerryn Starr are just one shot off the pace after yesterday's opening round of the 74-hole New South Wales strokeplay championship at The Lakes golf course in Sydney.

Kiwis Brooky and Starr shot level par rounds of 74 to trail local player Joanne Mills.

The New Zealand pair are tied with NSW player Ed Kennedy. — NZPA