

Brooky bursts clear of classy field

A REJUVENATED Lynnette Brooky burst clear of the field to hold a four-shot advantage after the second round of the A\$500,000 (NZ\$616,000) ANZ Ladies' Masters golf tournament on Queensland's Gold Coast yesterday.

Brooky carved up the Royal Pines course for the second day with a seven-under-par 65 to reach 13-under and shock a high-class field, including three-time defending champion Karrie Webb, of Australia.

World No 1 Webb battled the course to shoot 70 to be outright third on seven-under, two shots

behind leading American Kelly Robbins.

Given Brooky's form, they face a big task to haul in the Wellingtonian.

Her position was set up by a sensational 66 late in the opening round when winds hit the course. An 8am tee-off yesterday resulted in perfect conditions and a bogey-free effort.

Brooky reached every green in regulation and one-putted on



Brooky

seven of them for four birdies on the front nine and three on the back. When the afternoon group teed off she had a seven-shot gap on the field and only Robbins, with a 67, made any inroads.

Brooky, 33, was all smiles after her round, putting her outstanding form down to technical changes recommended by coach Alex Mercer two weeks ago.

"Alex said I was ready and I've just been practising hard since and getting in the position he wants me to be to strike the ball straight. It's working," Brooky said.

She was also quick to thank Hutt Golf Club professional David Hartshorn who took 4cm off the length of her putter.

"He said it would be good for me to finally get my eyes over the ball so I'd like to thank him as well."

Brooky was flying a lone New Zealand flag, with none of the seven other New Zealanders under par at the halfway stage.

Pam Sowden was on two-over 146, Gina Scott (147), Susan Farron and Shelley Duncan (148), Kerryn Starr (150), Catherine Knight (155) and Renee Fowler (162). — NZPA



SHORTS

Brooky pipped

Australian Joanne Mills produced an eagle at the second play-off hole to deny Lynnette Brooky of Wellington her first title on the European women's golf tour in Hamburg yesterday. Brooky trailed overnight leader Joanne Morley of England by two strokes in the German women's open yesterday, but shot a two-under 71 to share the lead with Mills at nine under par 283 after 72 holes. That led to a sudden death playoff, which Mills won with an eagle three at the par five 18th.

Brooky aiming for top 10 tour finish

LONDON — Leading New Zealand golfer Lynnette Brooky aims to finish in the top 10 on the European women's golf tour this season.

Brooky, ranked 18th last year, said yesterday that she had overcome a painful long-term injury and was hoping for bigger things this year.

Her first European appearance of the season will be in Florence next week for the Italian Open.

"I found some weeks ago my shoulder has been dislocated for years. Because of that, my wrist went last year and before that I had a lot of back pain and pain everywhere," Brooky said.

She said that after numerous visits to specialists, Lower Hutt osteopath Val Todd discovered the dislocated shoulder.

"She put it back in, worked on me, and my shoulder feels in perfect condition for the first time in ages.



Lynnette Brooky

"I had a game near London yesterday and I was hitting seven irons where I used to hit six irons."

Brooky, aged 31, said she had never felt stronger.

"I want to finish in the top 10 this year. That's my goal. If I don't then I would feel I'm not

having a good year.

"I am working hard on my game. On a good day I don't expect to have to average more than 29 putts. I want to hit the fairways straight, missing no more than three a round at the most."

Brooky is also planning to enter the \$2.3 million (£750,000) British Open at Royal Birkdale from August 17 to 20.

— NZPA