

WOMEN'S GOLF

Brooky, Starr close to lead

SYDNEY. — New Zealanders Lynette Brooky and Kerryn Starr are just one shot off the pace after opening round of the 72-hole New South Wales strokeplay championship at The Lakes golf course in Sydney yesterday.

Brooky and Starr shot level-par rounds of 74 to trail local player Joanne Mills. The New Zealanders are tied with NSW player Edwina Kennedy.

While yesterday's score was a continuation of fine recent form for Brooky, who last month produced a brilliant final-round three-under 69 to finish top individual and lift New Zealand to second in the Queen Sirikit Cup in Perth, the round was a boon for 22-year-old Starr.

A member of the Junior Tasman Cup team in 1989, she made the Commonwealth championship team in 1991 but to date has not been able to force a regular place in the New Zealand senior team.



Kerryn Starr — not a regular in the NZ team

However the NSW event, along with two rounds in Auckland prior to the team's departure yesterday, is being used as a base for the selection of the Tasman Cup team which tackles Australia in Brisbane this September. A strong performance here could be a major step forward for Starr.

Lisa Aldridge, who is as much a fixture in New Zealand's highly-ranked side as Brooky, started her defence of the NSW crown in relatively quiet fashion today.

She shot a respectable two-over 76 to sit three behind the leaders in sixth but most competitors will be watching her every move when the tournament resumes on Thursday. Last year the left-hander blitzed the field by nine strokes.

Two other New Zealanders, Susan Farron and Gina Scott, are a further three shots behind at the tailend of a crush of 15 players all within six shots of the lead.

The fifth member of New Zealand's squad, Emma Keeling, had a disappointing day despite the cool and calm conditions, shooting an 11-over 85.

Today was a rest day at The Lakes, with the second round scheduled for tomorrow and double round of 36 holes on Friday. — NZPA

NZ star Brooky on the defence

By FREYA PETERSEN

THE switch by several leading amateurs to the professional ranks has not deterred New Zealand champion Lynette Brooky from making the trip to defend her Australian Open title this week at Brisbane Golf Club.

Brooky, who won the 72-hole title at La Perouse last year, believes a top-class field, which includes several internationals from Queensland, interstate and New Zealand, will be enough of a challenge.

In a rain-interrupted first round yesterday, West Australian Tracie Guy shot 74 to lead Brooky (75) by one shot.

A group on 76 includes Karrie Webb, Simone Williams and Cheryl Cowie, of Queensland, Karen Starr (New Zealand) and Terry McKinnon (Victoria).

National champion Anne-Marie Knight (South Australia), Cathryn Knight (NZ), Natasha Hemms (NSW) and Adele Bannerman came in on 77, with Rachel Hetherington (Qld) on 78.

Other Queensland top finishers were Joanne Atkin (79), Jane Bell (80) and Melissa Daw (80).

Brooky said she was unused to the lush greens of the Brisbane course, turned to a temporary lake system by a summer downpour yesterday. She said entry to the LPGA by several top Australians, including Lorraine Lambert and Joanne Mills, did not guarantee she would win.

"You've lost a few good Australian players but there's still enough strong players here to hold the title and it's going to be twice as hard to win it," she said. "I'm not hitting it too well out there at the moment and the grass is greener here, different to what I'm used to. It's part slush and the rough is hard to get out of."

"This is not an easy course. You have to place your shots. If you hit it straight on to the greens, you're bound to play under, but if you get 25 to 30 feet away from the pin it's easy to three-putt."

Brooky captures NSW title

NEW ZEALAND'S Lynette Brooky carried off the New South Wales women's strokeplay golf championship yesterday.

Brooky went into the final day of the championship at The Lakes course in Sydney one shot behind leader Tania Holl, of the Australian Institute of Sport, but excellent rounds of one-under-par 73 in the morning and then a one-over-par 75 saw the Wellingtonian finish with a three-stroke victory.

Added delight for the New Zealanders came with Kerryn Starr, 22, finishing runner-up.

Best of the Australians was Lorraine Lambert, one stroke behind Starr on 301. — NZPA



LYNNETTE BROOKY