



LYNNETTE BROOKY: teeing off for European tour.

Brooky taking on the world

New Zealand golf star Lynnette Brooky aims to test herself against Europe's best, reports Martin Davidson of NZPA

The Australasian golfing playground is no longer big enough to challenge the region's leading women's amateur player, Lynnette Brooky.

The 25-year-old Kiwi has set her sights on Europe, confident she will acquit herself at a level of competition a cut above that offered in Australasia.

Brooky has a confirmed start in the British amateur championships in Gullane, Scotland, from August 20. But before that she hopes to play in the British professional stroke play championships at Woburn, England. She is to compete as an amateur in the qualifying tournament on August 10.

She takes with her impeccable credentials and a run of form that have made her the dominant figure in the Australasian amateur women's game. In her last four major tournaments Brooky has steam-rolled her way to four titles. The latest of her victories came in the New South Wales stroke play championship in June. Before that she was the leading individual at the 12-nation Queen Sirikit Cup tournament in Perth.

That performance included a final-round three-under-par 69 on the Vines links — the first time par has been bettered by a female on the testing Western Australian course.

For good measure the stocky, determined Brooky earlier walked away with the Australian stroke play crown.

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Brooky. She has an itch to test herself against the best competition available.

"I've always said that providing my form in New Zealand was good enough I'd like to test myself in Europe. I think it'll be awesome. It'll be a different world," said Brooky, whose rapid rise to prominence in the past 12 months has resulted in her overtaking left-hander Lisa Aldridge as New Zealand's leading player. "It's really an exploration exercise; a matter of

Many golfers would be content to rest on their laurels, safe in the knowledge that such a rich vein of form confirmed their standing. Not so Lyn Brooky. She is eager to test herself against the sternest competition.

testing my ability against the Europeans."

Brooky has once before fronted up against the elite European women — and she fared well.

She was the eighth leading individual at last year's world amateur teams championship in Canada when New Zealand confirmed its global strength by finishing third.

A broad-shouldered, powerful player who enjoys good distance off the tee, Brooky believes a lot of her success is due to a "casual" approach once she's on the course. Observers say her mental strength is unmatched in the women's ranks in New Zealand.

Brooky believes her ability to ac-

cept the good with the bad has helped her to overcome mid-round crises.

"Mentally I just accept things as they happen and get on with it. Everyone wants to win but you can't allow yourself to get depressed if your form is not that hot.

"Golf is a game in which luck has a big say."

A player could do much to help herself, though.

"I've always made a point of introducing myself to the girls who win tournaments I'm in. I make a point of having a chat with them and I'm not interested in what new dress they happened to buy that particular week.

"I pester them for knowledge. How they reacted to such and such a shot, where they think they won the tournament..."

That thirst for knowledge has pushed Brooky to leave the relative security of Australasia for the challenge offered by Europe.

She will be comforted by the company of her parents, Frank and Margaret, without whose help the trip would never have taken place. She estimates her five-week trip will cost about \$20,000, of which \$6000 has come from a Sports Foundation grant and the balance from the family pocket.

Brooky said she was grateful to her parents for their support; she has been unemployed for more than two years.

"They're just so supportive that sometimes I get embarrassed. I couldn't have achieved anything if it hadn't been for my parents.

"Every time I go out on the course I try to prove something to them. I like to think I thank them by the results I produce."

Brooky has set herself the goal of top-10 finishes in Europe but said that should she fail to match her aspirations the world would not end.