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TITAHI BAY SPORT

PROFILE

lynnette brooky

GOLF... BY FAYE LOUGHER

It's hard to believe that top women's golfer Lynnette Brooky started her golfing career caddying for her father.

There's 10 in our family out of 11 who play. We all had a history of caddying for dad and when they [her siblings] were old enough to say they didn't want to do it, he grabbed the next one. He had a one handicap and I watched the longest before I started playing."

Lynnette says everyone in her family had natural talent when it came to golf, but she was the one who put in the extra effort and made a career of it.

"I wanted to be a top sportsperson from the time I was five," she says.

Lynnette became serious about her golf after contracting industrial asthma while working as a screen printer. She was told to get as much fresh air as possible and found golf was a great way to boost her fitness and keep her active. While in Asia in 1993 she became very ill and says it took her close to 18 months to recover.

"I thought I may as well hit a golf ball and the following year I won the nationals."

Lynnette started playing golf at Titahi Bay when the Brooky family was living in Tawa, but now she lives in Lower Hutt with her manager, Gail Allport, and her family.

In 1996 Gail broke her leg in a freak accident while caddying for Lynnette, but still made her tee off before heading to hospital. It took six months of intensive physiotherapy and work in a heated pool at the hospital before she was back caddying again.

Due to playing commitments Lynnette spends a maximum of five months a year in New Zealand. She eventually wants to head to America as that is where big money can be gained playing golf.

"You have to go overseas. I played for New Zealand as an amateur for three years and won a lot of tournaments. After three years I said to my coach Alex Mercer I wanted to go to Sydney and turn pro. I told him I wanted Gail to manage me and he knew I was ready. It's been a great team."

Lynnette says she wouldn't have got to the level she has without goals.

"Every year since turning pro we've had



goals set out - what we want to do. I have about 10 goals set out and I always achieve more than 50 percent."

This year one of her goals was to get a golfing partner and she has been enjoying playing alongside Alistar Sidford.

"He's a touring pro as well and we play and practice nearly every day. I feel the most confident player, I've done all the work and just go out there and have fun. That's what I wanted to do, keep having fun."

Her hard work has definitely been paying off - last year Lynnette won the Gotesborg Kex Ladies Open in Sweden and set a course record of 66. She also won the Austrian Ladies Open with a course record of 64. In June she plays in the

Evian Masters in France, a tournament she particularly enjoys.

"First prize is about \$300,000 and everything is supplied. The hotels are like castles and there is a nine hole par three between the two hotels, and also this lake on the other side."

Another favourite is the McDonald's WPGA Championship of Europe, as Lynnette is a long-time supporter of Ronald McDonald house.

"We do what we can for them. We decided to choose one [organisation to support] and I think we made a good choice. I've played with the big guy in McDonald's and their team. They call me their number one pro am girl! I developed a good relationship there."