

GOLF ROUND-UP

SAM HEAD shot the round of her life in the Austrian Women's Open at Murhof yesterday, breaking the course record and providing just the tonic for her husband James Stanbridge, who is seriously ill with pancreatitis in hospital at home, writes **Claire Middleton**.

Head, 25, fired an opening eight-under-par 64, her best round ever, to take Natascha Fink's course record by two strokes. Then she spoke about how taking one day at a time in her home life had helped when it came to putting together her dream round.

"I decided to do everything for the moment and that's what happened on the course," she said. "I was just thinking about the shot I was playing, not the one to come."

Her magnificent effort, however, was not enough to give her the lead outright for Lynnette Brooky, of New Zealand, opened with three birdies and then shot five more in a row after the turn to grab a share of pole position.

AUSTRIAN WOMEN'S OPEN (Murhof). — 1st rd: (GB & Ireland unless stated): 64—S Head, L Brooky (NZ), 67—L Philo (US), C Duffy, J Forbes. 68—L Davies, K Marshall, K Poppmeier (Austria), 69—F Dassu (Italy), H Hopkins (Australia). 70—M Hedblom (Sweden), L Greve (Denmark), T Johnson, K Pearce (Australia), E Knuth (Spain), K Orum (Denmark), M Hageman (Holland), A Munt (Australia), 71—J Van Hagen (Holland), P Gonzalez (Peru), L Navarro (Spain), M L de Lorenzi (France), D Dowling, E Esterl (Germany), M Pistolet (France), J Mills (Australia), S Mendiburu (France), W Dicks, S Cavalleri (Italy), L Kreutz (France), GB: 72—S Prosser, 73—G Stewart, M McKay, 73—S Bennett, H Wadsworth, T Eakin, S Dickens. 74—K Andersson, T Craik, C Hall, J Oliver, J Head, L Fairclough, 75—A Radford, S Gallacher, L Dermott. 76—K Thomas, S Lambert. 77—M Sutton, A Rogers, S Elliott. 80—M Wright, A Johns. 86—L Lawrence.

Brooky six behind. Wellington golfer Lynnette Brooky was six shots off the lead after the second round of the Evian Masters women's tournament in France today. Brooky shot a one-over 73 to follow her first-round 72. Four shots behind her is Palmerston North's Susan Farron, who shot a two-over 74. Swedish golfers Maria Bjorth and Helen Alfredsson lead on five-under totals of 139.

Stockholm

COMPAQ Open European Tour women's event:

284—R Carriedo (Spn) 72 67 73 72
285—K Icher (Fra) 66 67 76 76
286—S Gustafson (Swe) 69 77 66 74
290—L Neumann (Swe) 73 75 68 74, E Esterl (Ger) 72 75 73 70
291—P Marti (Spn) 74 73 72 72, C Koch (Swe) 75 72 71 73, L Brooky (NZ) 72 73 72 74
292—H Alfredsson (Swe) 76 74 70 72, M Monnet (Fra) 74 75 66 77

WOMEN'S ARRAS OPEN (Anzin-St Aubin, France). — Leading final scores: 272—L Brooky (NZ) 69, 69, 68, 66, 277—P Marti (Spain) 69 71 69 68, 279—K Icher (France) 70, 68, 71, 70; M

WOMEN'S GOLF

Davies hits out to share lead

By Claire Middleton
in Graz, Austria

STARTING six shots off the pace was not enough to worry Britain's Laura Davies, who recorded a splendid second-round six-under-par 66 to end with a share of the lead at the Austrian Open here yesterday.

Trish Johnson is also well placed for today's final round after her 66 brought her to eight under par overall, two adrift of the pair in pole position.

Davies dropped only one shot yesterday when she three-putted the par three 13th, but entertained a large gallery with some spectacular long hitting, including a 220-yard three-iron which soared over a lake, a small forest and a large bunker before landing 20 feet from the pin.

"It was a funny feeling starting so far behind, but I picked up a shot early on and found the par fives friendly," said Davies. She shares the lead on 134 with New Zealand's Lynnette Brooky.

Johnson started with five birdies in the opening nine holes, briefly ran out of steam at the turn, but ended with a birdie.

One of the other big earners in the field, however, failed to make the cut. Austrian amateur Judith Wiesner, who peaked at No 12 in the world tennis rankings before retiring last year, finished 10 over par, dropping six shots yesterday.

After her 64 on day one, England's Sam Head fell away to finish on 138.

AUSTRIAN WOMEN'S OPEN (Murhof). — 2nd rd leaders (GB & Ireland unless stated): 134—L Davies (GB) 68, 64; L Brooky (NZ) 64, 70; 136—L Philo (US) 67, 69; T Johnson 70, 66; E Knuth (Spain) 70, 66; 137—C Duffy 67, 70; J Mills (Australia) 69, 66; 138—L Greve (Denmark) 70, 68; F Dassu (Italy) 69, 69; S Head 64, 74; 139—M Hageman (Holland) 70, 69; A Sanchez-Torrelanica (Spain) 69, 70; S Prosser 72, 67; M Hedblom (Sweden) 70, 69; 140—K Pearce (Australia) 70, 70; P Meunier Lebouc (France) 73, 67; K Marshall 68, 72; R Carriedo (Spain) 67, 73; 141—S Mendiburu (France) 71, 70; L Kreutz (France) 71, 70; P Sterner (Sweden) 73, 68; 142—L Fairclough 74, 68; S Cavalleri (Italy) 73, 71; J Forbes 67, 75; V Stensrud (Norway) 76, 66; 143—E Esterl (Germany) 71, 72; S Gustafson (Sweden) 73, 70; S Dickens 73, 70; A Munt 70, 73; B Pestana (S Africa) 74, 69; M Murray 73, 70.

Johnson is edged out

GOLF

BRITAIN'S Trish Johnson finished second in the Austrian Open in Murhof, near Graz yesterday.

Johnson finished one shot behind New Zealand's Lynnette Brooky and is now on course to retain her Solheim Cup place for the Europe versus America match at Muirfield Village, Ohio, in September.

Brooky shot a three-under-par 69 to finish on 13-under-par 203 and collected the £12,000 first prize. Britain's former world No1 Laura Davies finished joint third on 205.

Brooky sees green on professional circuit

By RUSSELL GRAY

LYNNETTE BROOKY dreams of playing alongside players such as Laura Davis, Dottie Mochrie, Nancy Lopez and Jan Stephenson on the United States women's professional golf circuit.

There are times when Brooky has to pinch herself back to reality, so vivid are the images of her treading the immaculately groomed fairways with such legendary characters.

Brooky, 25, makes no secret of the fact that she would love to try her luck on the professional circuit and if she can find a suitable backer would be off like a flash.

"I'm just waiting for the chance and it has to come in the next year if I'm going to do it," Brooky said.

"The more I see it on television the more I want to be there playing.

"My ambition is to turn professional and make a million dollars." Women's golf in New Zealand is

of Brooky and others such as Susan Farron, Lisa Aldridge and Kerry Starr in the amateur ranks. Sheree Higgins is beginning to make a name for herself as a professional on the Japanese circuit but it would be a huge boost if New Zealand could get a player on to the high-profile American tour.

One player who won't be turning professional is Aldridge. She had considered giving it a go but has now had second thoughts.

"I've decided I'm quite happy doing what I'm doing," Aldridge said.

"There were times when I thought I should give it a go or I might regret it later on. Now I think I might regret it if I did turn professional.

"I'm proud of what I've done as an amateur."