

Determined Brooky wrests NZ crown from Aussie champ

By MURRAY HILLS



WELLINGTON'S Lynnette Brooky was swamped by family and friends after denying Australian Loraine Lambert her third successive New Zealand women's matchplay golf title yesterday.

The 36-hole final of the ANZ-sponsored championships at New Plymouth's Ngamotu links went to the wire, with Brooky claiming her second matchplay crown with a one-up win to go with her 1990 success.

"Brilliant," was how the Manor Park golfer described the win. "I loved the crowd, they made me play and made me smile. They kept me going. No way was I going to lose. I just kept on saying to myself: Do I want to win?"

With vocal support from her family and relations, 30 or so in the 300-plus gallery which enjoyed the warm, sunny conditions, Brooky said winning the title was special.

"It means the title stays in New Zealand and that's great. I'm just so rapt to have won. I put so much heart and soul into it. Loraine's a brilliant player and a good player to play with. She's full of smiles."

For Lambert, defeat was tough to swallow.

She made no secret of the fact that she wanted three matchplay titles on end and played superbly to reach the final. "I just couldn't get a putt, they never looked like dropping. Tee to green I couldn't complain. I played faultless golf over the closing holes but the putts didn't drop. That's how it goes."

Lambert, from Brisbane's Indooroopilly club, said full credit to Brooky. "She played really well all week."

As for her future, Lambert hinted a switch to the professional ranks was near. "There's not much more I want to do as an amateur. As an amateur you're living on

a shoe-string budget, you can't do that forever."

The final started evenly and after nine holes it was all square. Lambert gained an edge on the par five 10th but a lost ball on the par three 12th upset her concentration. She promptly dropped the next three holes to trail by three. Lambert regained some ground with a win on the 16th and went to lunch two down.

Brooky started slowly in the afternoon round dropping the first two holes to pars. "But I was always confident. After topping my second and only just making the fourth green, I said to John (her brother and caddy) that it would be funny if I holed the putt for a birdie and that's what I did."

The birdie fired Brooky up. It was just as well as Lambert produced a birdie barrage for three on the trot from the sixth to the eighth. Brooky was up to the occasion, matching Lambert on the sixth and seventh, losing only the eighth to square the match.

Brooky bounced back with wins at nine and 11 to lead two up, although Lambert levelled the match again on the 13th with a superb birdie three. The pair went shot for shot over the next two holes with Brooky nailing the title with a 3.5 metre birdie putt on the par four 16th.

In the end, the putt proved the difference between the two, with both players missing birdie attempts from handy distances on the final two holes.

North Shore's Emma Keeling won the New Zealand Plate title with a comfortable 4 and 2 win against Denise Booker.

Earlier in the day, Booker edged out fellow Australian Anne-Marie Knight 1 up, while Keeling was taken to the

NOT AGAIN: Australian Loraine Lambert watches another putt slide by during the final of the New Zealand women's matchplay golf championships at New Plymouth's Ngamotu links yesterday. Lambert lost 1 down to Wellington's Lynnette Brooky.

Photo: DWAYNE SENIOR

19th by fellow New Zealand international Gina Scott (Kawhia).

In the Waddell Rosebowl for the second 32 players, Waitangi's Ann Binney sneaked home 1 up against Genaea Perry, from the Russley club in Christchurch.

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