

# The Classic Final

**Call it the Case of the Disappearing Ball.**

**Or: The Topped Shot that was Tops.**

No, keep it simple. Make it: **Brooky Best.**

This final of the ANZ women's championship at New Plymouth had enough twists and turns for a page of titles. It was a heck of a final as Lynnette Brooky of Manor Park beat the champion of the last two years and, apparently soon-to-be-professional Loraine Lambert from the Indooroopilly club in Brisbane, 1 up.

Finals are often an anti-climax as the stress of the week takes its toll.

Not this one.

Some commentators like to talk about turning points. This match had roundabouts.

An important one came at the 12th hole in the morning with the Australian 1 up. Lambert's tee shot to this par three was left of the green and headed for the swale pin high while Brooky hit on to the green.

Although there were a couple of hundred spectators watching and a good handful in the vicinity of where Lambert's shot was headed, a painstaking search failed to produce it.

Lambert, a cool-headed 21-year-old, conceded the hole and was never in front again.

Certainly, some players would have made more of it but Lambert went about her business. After the final, she hoped that, for the sake of golf, nobody had pocketed her ball

and added: "But I do think someone picked it up."

She said the incident didn't upset her but she did lose the next three holes, the 14th to a bogey.

Lambert got one back with a par at the 16th and went to lunch 2 down.

By the 20th, the final was back to all square with Lambert parring and Brooky having two bogeys.

At the 22nd hole, Brooky

holed a putt on a similar line in the morning.

Against her was the fact that her putting had been patchy for the last few days as she struggled to find the pace of the greens. No trouble here, though, and the hole was halved in twos.

They halved the next in birdie fours and Lambert squared the match on the 26th with her third successive birdie.

The seesaw continued with Brooky winning the 27th with par to be out in par 36, one more than the Aussie.

Brooky was 2 up after a par at



*Lyn Brooky raises her arms in triumph as she defeats Loraine Lambert in the final.*

topped her second shot, which scuttled on to the green about seven metres from the hole.

She turned to her caddy, brother John, and said: "Wouldn't it make you laugh if I birdied it?"

The line to the hole was straight and the putt was true. She laughed, Lambert frowned. Brooky 1 up.

The par three 24th hole was critical. Brooky was again around seven metres from the hole while Lambert drilled a majestic iron to within centimetres of the hole. In Brooky's favour was that she had

29th and then lost two in a row to a bogey and a birdie.

The big break came at the 34th when Brooky had her fourth birdie of the round to take her winning lead.

When it was all over, there were celebrations everywhere. Lynnette Brooky was delighted with her second championship in four years, the faithful Brooky clan was all smiles and tears, and the New Zealand Ladies Golf Union grateful that for the first time in nine years all the trophies stayed at home.

## Brooky's reign shaky

Lynnette Brooky will have to produce something extra special in today's final round of the Australian women's amateur stroke-play golf championship in Brisbane if she is to retain her title.

Brooky shot her second successive round of one-over-par 73 yesterday to remain second, but trails Queenslander Karrie Webb by three shots.

Webb, just 18 but already one of the hottest properties in Australian women's golf, shot a one-under-par 71 for the second day running to be on two-over 218 after 54 holes.

Five of New Zealand's other

six representatives all improved their scores yesterday, with Palmerston North's Susan Farron matching Brooky's 73 to move to 10-over 226 and a place in the top 10.

Kerryn Starr of Christchurch recovered from her horror round of nine-over on Tuesday to shoot a three-over 75 and is now 232 but Timaru's Catherine Knight, who had been playing steadily, dipped after a disappointing eight-over 80 yesterday.

Aucklanders Joanna Croskery, Pam Sowden and Emma Keeling all finally broke 80 for the first time yesterday. — NZPA

## 'Stolen' ball mars women's golf final

AUSTRALIAN golfer Loraine Lambert thinks someone stole her ball during her battle for the national women's championship golf final against Wellington's Lynnette Brooky in New Plymouth yesterday. It's the only explanation she has for losing her ball on the 12th hole of the 36-hole match.

Lambert put her tee shot on the par-three into the rough to the left of the green. She was more than happy with that but when she got there the ball couldn't be found. A frantic search brought no success and Lambert conceded the hole and a lead she never regained.

"I was shocked. How can you lose a ball when you know where it is and so many people are looking for it?" Lambert said. "Hopefully for the game of golf I am wrong, but I think someone picked it up." — By RUSSELL GRAY