

Women's Golf

Barnard surprises with eight birdies

By Emma-Jane Simpson
on the Gold Coast

BRITAIN'S Diane Barnard, forced back on to the Evian European Tour after losing her US Tour card, was a surprise leader after a brilliant 65 in yesterday's first round of the ANZ Australian Masters at the Royal Pines Resort here in Queensland.

The 36-year-old had eight birdies in a seven-under-par round to finish one ahead of New Zealand's Lynnette Brooky and two in front of Scotland's Kathryn Marshall, Australia's world No 1 Karrie Webb and last year's European No 1, Sophie Gustafson.

But two-time winner Laura Davies, who is trying out a new set of Srixon clubs this week, drove badly and was out of sorts in a hugely disappointing 77, while someone else's driving caused her even more pain as she was clipped by a golf cart post-round. She needed treatment for a badly skinned heel.

Barnard had a skip in her

step as she dwelt on the positives of the end of a three-year run on the US circuit. "It is disappointing not to be playing in the States, but the competition in Europe isn't so tough so I'm trying to look on the positive side," she said.

She admits she has toyed with the notion of giving up touring. "I keep saying that it might be my last year, but I haven't found anything to replace it so I just keep playing."

Marshall attributed her fine form to a change in switching to left hand below right on the putter.

AUSTRALIAN MASTERS (Queensland)—1st rd leaders: 65—D Barnard (GB), 66—L Brooky (NZ), 67—K Webb (Australia), S Gustafson (Sweden), K Marshall (GB), 68—K Parker (US), K Robbins (US), C Dibnah (Australia), 69—J Morley (GB), L Maritz (S Africa), E Poburski (Germany), M Lunn (Australia), 70—J Head (GB), P Meunier (France), C Matthew (GB), A Munt (Australia), H Dobson (GB), H Hopkins (Australia), M Hjorth (Sweden), F Pike (Australia). Selected: 71—L Fairclough (GB), A Nicholas (GB), R Teske (Australia), M Monnet (France), S Eklund (Sweden), L Lambert (Australia), R Carriedo (Spain). 72—W Dicks (GB), C Hall (GB), 73—D Reid (GB), 74—S Bennett (GB), 75—S Head (GB), 76—E Ratcliffe (GB), J Forbes (GB), 77—L Davies (GB), 78—K Taylor (GB).

GOLF

Western Open

WESTERN Open played on the par-72, 7073-yard Cog Hill Golf and Country Club course in Lemont, Illinois (US unless stated):

201—Robert Allenby (Aust) 69 67 65
203—Neal Lancaster 68 68 67
204—Jerry Kelly 67 69 68, Bob Estes 66 70 68
205—Davis Love III 67 70 68, John Cook 67 66 72
206—David Frost (Sth Afr) 67 73 66, Chris Riley 70 70 66, Duffy Waldorf 70 70 66, Scott Verplank 67 69 70, Stuart Appleby (Aust) 70 65 71
207—Bob Tway 70 72 65, Nick Price (Zimb) 73 68 66, John Senden (Aust) 71 70 66, Brandt Jobe 69 69 69, Paul Gow (Aust) 69 68 70, Vijay Singh (Fiji) 68 67 72
208—Jess Daley 74 67 67, Kevin Sutherland 75 65 68, Joey Sindelar 69 70 69
209—John Riegger 74 69 66, Geoff Ogilvy (Aust) 70 72 67, Matt Gogel 70 70 69, Lee Janzen 72 67 70, Luke Donald (Brit) 68 70 71, David Gossett 65 73 71, Joe Durant 68 68 73

Also:

215—Craig Perks (NZ) 71 72 72, Grant Waite (NZ) 70 72 73
219—Frank Nobilo (NZ) 71 70 78
Missed cut:
148—Michael Long (NZ) 76 72

European Open

EUROPEAN Open at the par-72 K Club course in Straffan, Ireland (British unless stated):

209—Michael Campbell (NZ) 68 71 70
210—Padraig Harrington (Ire) 72 69 69, Paul Lawrie 70 71 69
211—Barry Lane 69 71 71
212—Colin Montgomerie 69 75 68, Joakim Haeggman (Swe) 68 73 71
213—Paul Casey 71 73 69
214—Ian Woosnam 73 74 67, Fred Funk (US) 72 75 67, Nicolas Fasth (Swe) 69 77 68, Eduardo Romero (Arg) 74 69 71, Angel Cabrera (Arg) 72 71 71, Robert Karlsson (Swe) 70 72 72, Patrik Sjolund (Swe) 71 70 73
215—Peter O'Malley (Aust) 74 72 69, Jarmo Sandelin (Swe) 74 71 70, Lee Westwood 72 71 72, Retief Goosen (Sth Afr) 71 72 72, Bradley Dredge 71 71 73, Jarrod Moseley (Aust) 67 75 73, Mark Pilkington 71 69 75
216—Paul Broadhurst 73 73 70, Ignacio Garrido (Spn) 73 72 71, Mark James 73 72 71, Richard S Johnson (Swe) 71 72 73, Carl Pettersson (Swe) 71 71 74, Sebastian Delagrang (Fra) 69 73 74

US Women's Open

US Women's Open at the par-70 Prairie Dunes Country Club course in Hutchinson, Kansas (US unless stated):

208—Annika Sorenstam (Swe) 70 69 69
210—Jill McGill 71 70 69, Juli Inkster 67 72 71
211—Shani Waugh (Aust) 67 73 71
213—Michele Redman 71 69 73
214—Janice Moodie (Brit) 71 72 71
215—Lynnette Brooky (NZ) 73 73 69, Lorie Kane (Can) 69 77 69, Carin Koch (Swe) 73 72 70
216—Kim Mi Hyun (S Kor) 74 72 70, Laura Davies (Brit) 75 73 68, Susan Ginter-Brooker 74 72 70, Liselotte Neumann (Swe) 74 72 70, Mhairi McKay (Brit) 70 75 71, Stephanie Keever 72 71 73, Laura Diaz 67 72 77

Kiwi golfers prominent around the world

NEW ZEALAND golfers had healthy paydays around the world yesterday with Michael Campbell, Marnie McGuire, Gareth Paddison and Lynnette Brooky all recording top-four finishes.

Campbell wound up his final preparations for next month's US Open by capturing a share of fourth place in the Volvo PGA Championship in London. He birdied the closing two holes to card a final round 67 for a 12-under-par total and a 135,000 euros (NZ\$268,500) paycheck.

Dane Anders Hansen captured the title by five shots and a 19-under-par, a championship record.

Rookie professional Paddison made an immediate impact in his maiden appearance on the secondary Challenge Tour in Europe. He finished third, three strokes behind the winner, Fredrik Widmark, of Sweden, in the Izki Challenge de Espana at Urturi in northern Spain.

In Corning, New York, McGuire had her second top-10 finish in eight starts on the US LPGA Tour when she finished tied for third in the Corning Classic. She was just three shots behind winner Laura Diaz with a four-round total of 277, level with Italian Silvia Cavallieri.

In the abbreviated Costa Azul Open golf tournament near Lisbon in Portugal, Brooky was third equal and Catherine Knight tied for fifth in an event reduced to two rounds after the withdrawal of a main sponsor.

Brooky carded rounds of 71 and 70 to finish two strokes behind the winner, Kanna Takanashi, of Japan, and one behind Julie Forbes, of Scotland. Knight was a shot further back. — NZPA

Parlane (NZ) 73 75 70.

FRANCE

New Zealand golfer Lynette Brooky shot a two-under 70 in today's third round of the Evian Masters in France, but she slipped further off the pace.

Brooky trails Britain's Alison Nicholas by 12 strokes with her even-par tally of 216.

Brooky's three-round tally puts her among good company.

US Open champion Annika Sorenstam from Sweden again struggled on the greens on her way to a 70 which leaves her 14 strokes off the lead.

Defending champion Laura Davies also posted a 70 but is 10 strokes adrift of Nicholas on 214.

A barrage of eight birdies in a third consecutive round of 68 has carried Nicholas into the lead.

Nicholas, who defends her Irish Open crown next week, finished with a 12 under-par total of 204 to lead by one stroke from Japan's Hiromi Kobayashi.

Shani Waugh leads the Australian challenge after a 72 left her in fifth place on 211.

Waugh also ran up a six at the 15th but then pitched to six feet for a redeeming birdie at the last hole.

Kobayashi, making her first visit to France, was set to take the lead but came to grief at the 15th hole where she needed two attempts to escape from a greenside bunker to run up a bogey six.

"My birdie at the last hole was the most important," said Nicholas, who was bunkered but came out of the sand to three-metres to match Kobayashi's birdie four and protect her lead.

Results after the third round of the Evian Masters women's golf tournament. (Britain unless stated):

204—Alison Nicholas 68 68 68.
205—Hiromi Kobayashi (Japan) 69 67 69.
208—Joanne Morley 67 67 74.
209—Amy Alcott (US) 67 70 72.
211—Shani Waugh (Australia) 70 69 72.
Also:
212—Helen Alfredsson (Sweden) 72 70 70.
214—Laura Davies 74 70 70, Charlotta Sorenstam (Sweden) 74 69 71.
215—Lorraine Lambert (Australia) 76 70 69.
216—Lynette Brooky (NZ) 71 75 70, Fiona Pike (Australia) 76 72 70, Anne-Marie Knight (Australia) 75 71 72.

Women's Golf

Johnson in the hunt

By Claire Middleton
in Arras

TRISH JOHNSON battled back at the French Open here yesterday, a five-under-par 67 giving her a share of the second-round lead on 138 with last year's champion, New Zealander Lynnette Brooky.

Having left most of her golf clothing at home by mistake, her decision to go late-night shopping after the first round proved inspirational as she fired seven birdies to move to six under par overall.

Brooky had a 70 to finish on the same mark, a shot clear of the Swede Johanna Westberg, Spain's Ana Belen Sanchez and Vibeke Stensrud, of Norway. Lancashire's Kirsty Taylor stayed in contention on three under par overall after a 72.

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