

Warmth in welcome for Brooky

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give it a bit more life," Brooky said.

"It's positive now. When something really bad hits you - like my injury, or the All Blacks losing - it's going to come out better in the long run.

"I was just out there cruising. I was hitting it really well, and I was out there practising every day, but I wasn't doing the exercise to maintain that ability of practice."

The All Black theme is a common one - she's a big fan and was as gutted as anyone when they dipped out of the World Cup.

Her unique "Kiwi-ness" on the tour has won her many friends. Watching the All Blacks play England during a tournament in France, Brooky and Allport made so much noise cheering that their room quickly became the established rugby-watching venue.

"Two Kiwis can make heaps more noise than the English, so when we played the Scottish, we were in Morocco and everyone came to our room.

"Even the guys organising the tournament came and watched the game with us. All the French that saw us yahooping thought we were crazy. We just had so much fun."

Being such a passionate New Zealander, Brooky was a little upset that her wrist injury failed to attract any attention back home.

"I was disappointed that when my career almost ended that New Zealand wasn't in touch," she said, directing her criticism at the media.

But that's behind her now. Brooky is back home in Wellington for six months, with a busy schedule of working with the Ronald McDonald House charity and fulfilling her commitments to sponsors.

Her next major event is the Australian Open in February, although she'll pay a visit to long-term coach Alex Mercer next month across the Tasman.

With the European Tour continuing to expand, including planned tournaments in Asia and Australasia in 2001, Brooky is in no hurry to take the money and run to the lucrative LPGA tour in the United States.

"In five years time, I'll be No 1 or No 5 on the European Order of merit. I've made a lot of money and that's good enough for me. I don't want to run across to the American tour and make a million or two and just be bored.

"I'm not into that."