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Brooky fires-up to close in on leaders

SYDNEY. — New Zealand's Lynnette Brooky produced a major turnaround on day two of the \$A400,000 (\$NZ489,715) Australian women's open golf tournament yesterday and is in position to attack for the lead this weekend at Yarra Yarra Golf Club in Melbourne.

Brooky is 13th after carding a five-under 67 yesterday, cancelling out her five-over 77 on Thursday to leave her all square.

The top two remained the same, with Australia's Alison Munt improving by one

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shot to eight-under, two strokes clear of compatriot Corrine Dibnah who was joined by France's Marine Monnet.

Brooky produced a much better display with the putter, ensuring no bogeys.

It is hard to know what to expect from the Wellingtonian in each round she plays. Last week she led the Australian Ladies Masters after two rounds on 13-under but crashed out of contention by playing the

second half of the tournament in 10-over par.

Defending champion and tournament favourite Karrie Webb of Australia shot a second consecutive 70 to move ominously into 7th place on four under.

Only four of the 12 New Zealanders in the field have made the cut. They were Brooky, Susan Farron, who plummeted to three-over after shooting 79 yesterday, Gina Scott on eight over and Catherine Knight nine over. — NZPA

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Brooky on target for third title

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NEW ZEALAND golfer Lynnette Brooky is within sight of her third European title and second successive French Open crown.

Brooky, who won the event last year, entered the final round of the French Open at Arras overnight (NZ time) sharing the lead in the 275,000 euro (NZ\$561,568) tournament.

A third round of three-under-par 69 yesterday gave her a tournament score of nine-under 207 to see her out in front alongside Norway's Vibeke Stensrud.

England's Trish Johnson and Anna Berg were on 208 while Carin Koch, of Sweden, and Spain's Ana Sanchez were on 210.

Another New Zealander, Gina Scott, remained in contention on 213 after shooting 71 yesterday.

Brooky, 35, who opened with a first-round 68, made an early move yesterday when birdies at the first, second, fourth and sixth saw her make the turn four-under the card.

She couldn't maintain that momentum though and dropped her first shot at the 12th after three-putting.

That sapped her confidence and she completed the round disappointed not to have cashed in on her rich start.

"I started off great on the front nine, nothing was wrong and then on the back nine, I started missing putts," said Brooky, who would be the first player to successfully defend a title on the Evian Tour since England's Laura Davies in 1996. "Some putts jumped off line and I just lost my confidence." — NZPA

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12/3/01

Gustafson holds off fast-finishing Webb

SWEDEN'S Sophie Gustafson withstood intense pressure from world No 1 Karrie Webb to win the A\$400,000 (NZ\$489,715) Australian Women's Open by one shot at the Yarra Yarra Golf Club in Melbourne yesterday.

Defending champion Webb shot a faultless four-under 68 but it was not enough to crack overnight leader Gustafson, who had a roller-coaster day in compiling 71 for a winning tally of 12-under.

Playing together as the final pairing, it soon became obvious that the pair would fight it out for the title.

Gustafson increased her four-shot overnight lead to seven after birdies on the first three holes. But the relentless Webb never gave up and while she managed birdies on the seventh and ninth holes, Gustafson dropped shots on five, six and 10 to see her advantage shrink to two.

Both players shot birdies on the 17th hole and Webb did the same again on the 18th but Gustafson, still two shots up, knew she only needed par to secure victory.

The Swede is one of the most consistent players on the United States LPGA Tour, having the third-lowest stroke average last year. She finished 13th on the money list and achieved one victory, at the Subaru Memorial of Naples in Florida.

New Zealand's Lynnette Brooky shot a final-round 71 to finish one-over the card in 11th place.

She was 10th at last week's Australian Ladies Masters in Queensland.

New Zealand's Susan Farron finished the tournament in 37th place on 297 while compatriot Gina Scott was 49th on 300. — NZPA

25/2/2001

Brooky, Scott lead NZ charge

LYNNETTE BROOKY and Gina Scott were leading the New Zealand charge after the opening round of the A\$1.2 million (NZ\$1.54 million) Australian Masters women's golf tournament at Royal Pines on the Gold Coast yesterday.

In damp, dull conditions, Brooky and Scott both shot rounds of one-under-par 71 to be four shots off the pace set by South Australian Jane Crafter and Briton Laura Davies.

Defending champion and short-price favourite Karrie Webb was a shot behind the leaders on four-under.

The other New Zealanders were all over par, the best being Kerryn Starr, who shot a 73, Catherine Knight and Shelley Duncan, both 74, Marnie McGuire, 75, and Renee Fowler, 79. — NZPA