

Good finish sees Perks move up money list

UNITED STATES-based Palmerston North golf professional Craig Perks finished in a six-way tie for 14th place at the Buick Open in Grand Blanc, Michigan, yesterday.

After a frustrating start to the year, Perks, who shot a final-round three-under-par 69, has made the cut at three of his last four tournaments and the US\$51,000 (NZ\$121,000) he pocketed saw him jump 10 places up the USPGA Tour's money list to 116th with US\$315,000 in prizemoney. The top 125 players retain their exempt status for next year.

The tournament was won by American Kenny Perry, who recorded the second-lowest 72-hole winning score on the tour this season to break a six-year winless streak.

Perry shot a three-under 69 to finish at 25-under, one stroke off the tournament record set in 1987. It was Perry's fourth win on the PGA Tour and his first since the Bob Hope Chrysler Classic in 1995.

Perry never allowed his nerves to fray despite pressure from fellow Americans Chris DiMarco and Jim Furyk.

DiMarco shot a seven-under 65 to tie Furyk for second place at 23-under.

However, the round of the day belonged to Billy Mayfair, who raced up the leaderboard thanks to an 11-under 61 that included a 27 on the back nine.

Mayfair birdied the ninth hole to go two-under for his round, then holed a shot from the fairway for an eagle two at the 10th.

Mayfair birdied the

next six holes and added a final birdie at the 18th to finish tied for 14th.

Meanwhile, New Zealand's Lynnette Brooky ended a consistent performance with a one-over-par 74 to finish seven shots behind Spain's Taquel Carriedo in a share of sixth place at the Compaq Open women's tournament in Stockholm, Sweden.

Carriedo capitalised on Karine Icher's double-bogey on the 17th and a penalty for slow play to win the event by one stroke.

Icher, a French rookie trying to win her first European Tour event wire-to-wire, made her first double-bogey on the 11th hole where she was handed a one-shot penalty for slow play.

Her miss on the penultimate hole, a short par-three, came after Carriedo birdied the 16th.

The Spaniard parred the last two holes and finished with a one-under-par 72 for a 284 winning total.

Icher was penalised after taking too long to hit her second shot on the 11th, at 400m the shortest par-five on the course. She four-putted the hole.

Tournament director Ian Randell spoke to Icher about the pace of her play after the third round.

"Karine took 96 seconds - 16 seconds over the limit allowed - to hit her second shot at the 11th so I couldn't avoid handing out the penalty."

"I know it's the rule," said Icher, who led the tournament for 70 holes. "But there were a lot of people around and a lot of noise. I know I'm not very fast, but I think it was a little unfair." — Reuters-AP

Brooky nabs first title



WELLINGTON — After a day of ups and downs on the leaderboard, New Zealand's Lynnette Brooky took charge with three birdies in a row from the 14th and went on to clinch her first big professional win in the Austrian Open golf at Murhof, near Graz.

The 30-year-old, who lost in a play-off for the German Open last year when Australia's Joanne Mills holed a full wedge shot, shot a three-under-par 69 to finish on 13-under-par 203, and collected the \$37,000 first prize.

She could even afford to miss a short putt on the last to win by a shot from Britain's Trish Johnson.

Wellington's Brooky led every round, and equalled the course record on the first day.

Favourite Laura Davies, Spain's Estefina Knuth, Italy's Federica Dassu, and American rookie Laura Hilu, who won last year's tour

qualifying school, shared third place on 11 under 205.

Brooky, in her fourth year on tour, had set out sharing the lead with Davies. But the Briton fell back with a double-bogey seven at the seventh where she hit two shots in a bush — the first attempt was a one-handed back-hander — and then went into a bunker. She eventually posted a 71.

"I played well and had five birdies, but the putter didn't work for me today and that's no use in the final round," Davies said.

"I three-putted the 13th for a bogey four and the impetus just disappeared."

For Brooky, who had equalled the course record with England's Samantha Head in the first round, it was a nerve-wracking experience to lead from first to last. "But it was great fun playing in the final group on the final day," she said.

—NZPA



Lynette Brooky

GOLF

Brooky pipped by eagle

HAMBURG (Germany). — Australian golfer Joanne Mills produced the greatest shot of her life in the second hole of a playoff to win the German Women's Open today.

Mills, 27, had a spectacular eagle to beat Wellington's Lynette Brooky after the pair finished the 72 holes at Treudelberg tied on 283, nine under par, with both shooting final rounds of 71. Brooky forced the playoff with a late charge, carding four birdies in six holes.

Mills' second shot in the playoff finished dangerously close to the lake fronting the green, but she then sealed her first European LPGA Tour win by holing a wedge shot from 70m for an eagle-three that earned her the £15,000 (NZ\$38,894) winner's cheque. — AFP

BROOKY IN LEAD: Lynette Brooky maintained her fine touch to lead the field after a two under par 70 in the second round of the Austrian Open golf tournament at Frohnleiten yesterday. Brooky and Briton Laura Davies both finished the day 10-under to share the lead, two shots ahead of the field. At one stage Brooky held a four-stroke advantage over the chasing pack, but bogeys on the 17th and 18th pegged her back to 10 under.

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