

New Zealand women slip under radar

■ GOLF

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NEW ZEALAND golfers Lynnette Brooky and Gina Scott will hope to sneak in under the radar while attention is directed elsewhere at the World Cup starting in South Africa today.

Brooky and Scott are freed of the burden of expectation at the Sun City Resort near Johannesburg.

That is partly due to their relative anonymity in a field of glamour names as well as their 18th placing among 20 nations in last year's inaugural event at Fancourt in South Africa.

The distractions are plentiful in a field containing Swedish superstar Annika Sorenstam, American teenager Paula Creamer and English legend Laura Davies, among others.

Included among the 40 players taking part are six with Solheim Cup experience, 10 of the LPGA Tour's top 30 in the United States and 13 of the top 30 women from the European Tour.

So Brooky and Scott barely warranted a second glance this week as they prepared for the tournament on the Gary Player-designed Country Club course where teams will compete for a purse of US\$1.1 million (NZ\$1.59 million) over three rounds of fourball, foursomes and combined strokeplay.

The New Zealanders' credentials are, at best, modest in comparison with much of the field, though Wellington player Brooky, 38, has won three European Tour titles since 1998 and finished 13th on the tour's moneylist in 2005 with earnings of €96,400 (NZ\$172,636).

Scott lost her European card after a disappointing season last year when she was 125th on the moneylist with income of just €5200, following several solid years on that continent.

They will find some comfort in the fact that all the pre-tournament attention 12 months ago settled on the US, Australia and England only for the Asian nations to dominate as Japan won, the Philippines finished second and Korea third.

Teams:

Australia: Shani Waugh, Rachel Hetherington.

Brazil: Candy Hannemann, Luciana Bemvenuti.

Canada: Lori Kane, AJ Eathorne.

Colombia: Marissa Baena, Cristina Baena.

England: Kirsty Taylor, Laura Davies.

Finland: Minea Blomqvist, Riikka Hakkarainen.

France: Gwladys Nocera, Karine Icher.

Germany: Anja Monke, Miriam Nagl.

Italy: Veronica Zorzi, Silvia Cavalleri.

Japan: Ai Miyazato, Sakura Yokomine.

Korea: Meena Lee, Bo Bae Song.

New Zealand: Lynnette Brooky, Gina Scott.

Philippines: Dorothy Delasin, Ria Quizaon.

Scotland: Catriona Matthew, Janice Moodie.

South Africa: Laurette Maritz, Ashleigh Simon.

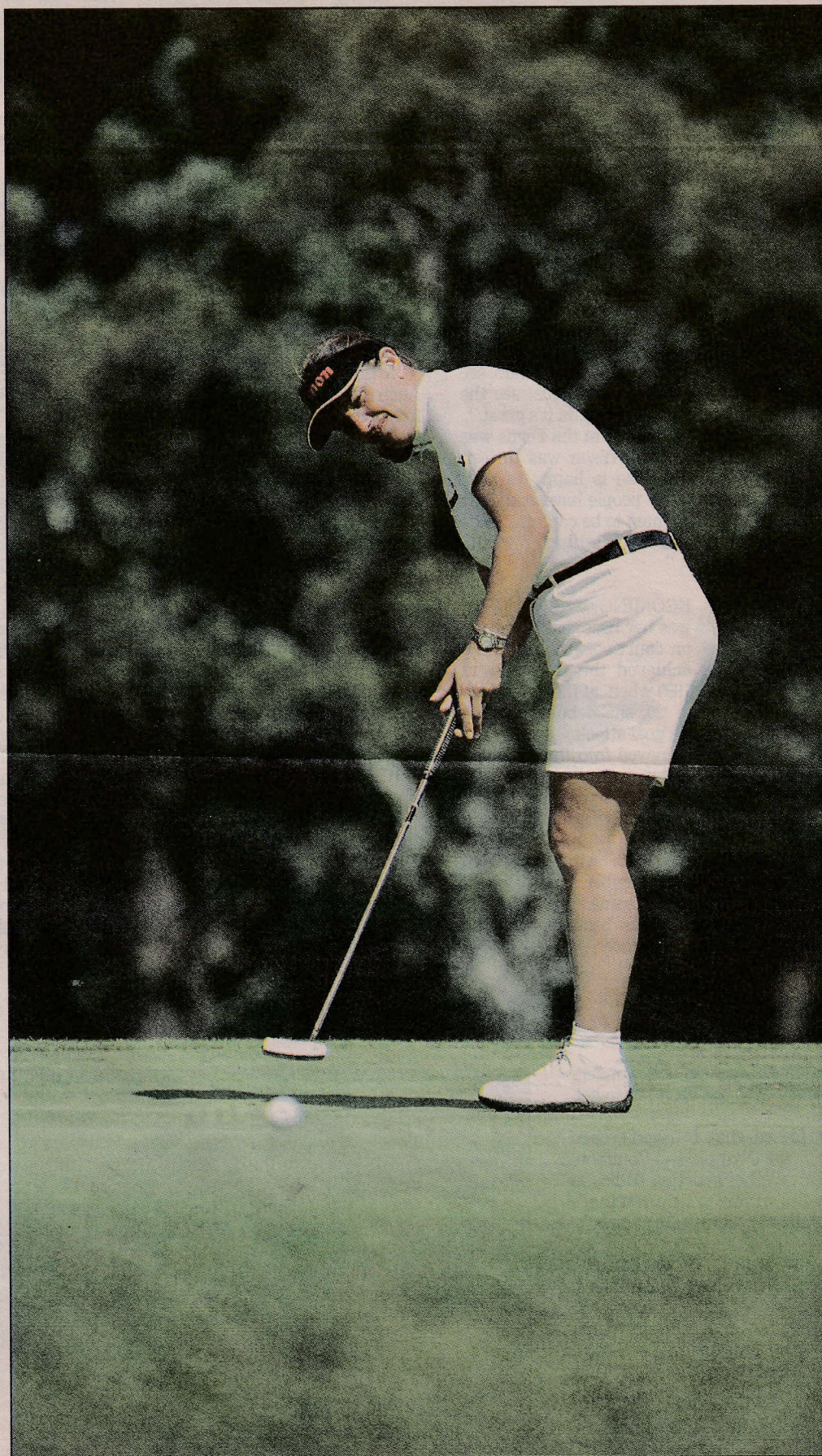
Spain: Marta Prieto, Paula Marti.

Sweden: Annika Sorenstam, Liselotte Neumann.

Taiwan: Amy Hung, Yu Ping Lin.

United States: Paula Creamer, Natalie Gulbis.

Wales: Becky Brewerton, Becky Morgan. — NZPA



Experienced: Wellington golfer Lynnette Brooky will team up with Gina Scott in the World Cup, which starts in South Africa today.

Picture: TARANAKI DAILY