

Golfer Lynnette Brooky has a good feeling about her prospects for this year – it probably has something to do with a recharged body and a healthy attitude.

Brooky pottting and putting

By GARY MORLEY, Golf writer

IF YOU look in the right places, you might find Wellington golfer Lynnette Brooky sinking another kind of ball these days.

Playing pool, to be exact.

It's become Brooky's favoured pastime, and, she says, it's helping her on the golf course too.

The aim is the same, and touch is vital. But more importantly, she really likes to win.

"You dress yourself casual, get a table and play," Brooky says. "I take my friends and try to kick butt so I can get a good feeling that I'm a winner."

Brooky tasted victory twice in Europe last year.

And she feels this year is going to be even better.

Refreshed after a two-week break at Christmas, Brooky has hit 1999 with a vengeance.

She's given up "everything bad" after sitting out New Year's eve with 'flu, embarking on a vigorous daily fitness campaign.

"Right now I'm into everything," Brooky says. "Anything that will be good for me, that sounds good for me, I'm adopting so it will work for me."

"I've had a lot of encouragement from friends, especially the ones in Europe sending me little parcels saying '1999 is your year'. They've put an image on me to produce this year, so I'm trying really hard."

The European tour starts in late May.

While last year's itinerary was financially affected by the Soccer World Cup in France, it has expanded again this year to 15 tournaments, with more than \$NZ9 million in total prizemoney.

Brooky feels her game is in the best shape it's ever been.

"I went to Australia recently and spent three days with my coach [Alex Mercer]. He said 'Brooky, I can't teach you anything'. We just went out and played golf because he said there was no use us standing on that practice fairway."

Mercer, who has worked with many top Australian and Kiwi professionals, has coached Brooky for 15 years.

He'll be with her and manager-caddy Gail Allport at the Australian Masters in Queensland starting next Thursday.

A United States LPGA tour event, the field will include the world's best women golfers.

Defending champion is Australian Karrie Webb, Brooky's rival when both were amateurs. Webb is one of the most successful players on the LPGA tour. Brooky has quietly developed her career in Europe.

The Kiwi is aiming to qualify for the US tour later this year, and feels the omens are good.

"I've got a good friend in Sydney who saw me and Karrie play as amateurs," Brooky says. "I used to be better than her and now she's better. He always gives me a half-hour lecture about how I can improve,

Brooky takes third

NEW ZEALAND'S Lynnette Brooky made a flying start to the Ladies European Tour golf season with a third equal finish at the Samsung Ladies Masters in Singapore at the weekend.

Brooky was just two shots behind Korean winner Bo Bae Song after a final round two-under-par 70, for a 54-hole total of 208 at the Laguna National Golf and Country Club.

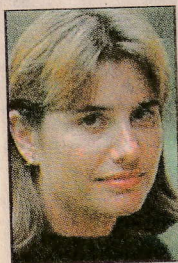
She matched legendary En-

glishwoman Laura Davies who also shot a final round 70 to tie with Brooky.

Swede Charlotta Sorenstam, sister of Annika Sorenstam, was second on 207 after a final round 71, one shot behind Song.

Auckland's Elizabeth McKinnon, missed the cut.

Brooky will team up with compatriot Gina Scott at the Women's World Cup in South Africa this week. — NZPA



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Lynnette Brooky

but this time he just gave me a huge cuddle and said 'I don't have to say anything, you're really ready'."

Just turned 31, Brooky believes it's now or never for her career.

Her win at the Austrian Open last year guaranteed her European tour card for three years, and now she can concentrate on the States.

"I'm not going to get younger and I'm not going to hit the ball bigger," she says. "If anything I'll start to slow down, so I may as well give it everything I've got and trust that I've got the ability."

She says she's starting to feel like a New

Zealand sports personality, rather than just known in Wellington.

"I'm speaking at the Kaikoura sports-person-of-the-year awards. They just rang up and asked me. It's a real honour."

That sort of boost has helped her keep positive in a sport where your best day can often come 24 hours before your worst.

"I've read a lot of [golf great] Ben Hogan and listened to people that make sense."

"If any bad vibes are around, I get out of the situation really quick. I want to make sure this week coming is just full of positivity – I've got nothing to think back on, no bad thoughts."