Professional News

Brooky grabs fourth Euro win

NEW Zealand pro Lynette Brooky retained her overnight lead to win the Spanish Open in brilliant fashion in Castellon last month.

Brooky shot a final round two-under par 70 for a total of 13-under par 275 to earn her fourth victory on the Ladies European Tour (LET) at Panoramica Golf Club.

It was nearly a fairytale double for the Titahi Bay settlement near Wellington, with Michael Campbell finished in a share of fifth place, two shots from the winner in the British Masters at De Vere Belfry.

Both Brooky and Campbell grew up in Titahi Bay and learned to play at the local golf club.

Brooky finished three shots clear of Gwladys Nocera (France) and her victory came at an opportune time for the Kiwi, securing her playing rights on the LET for the next three years as well as a start in the July's prestigious Evian Masters.

The New Zealander was in her final year of automatic playing rights after her last win at the 2003 French Open.

"I wanted to get into the Evian and we only had a small amount of time to do it so I just really thank Gerald (caddie) and my coach Di for sticking with me this week and for giving me the confidence to do it.

"It's been a long time waiting.

"I knew if I didn't win this year I'd have to work hard to keep my card, so it's nice to know I can play on the Tour for the next three years.

"I've got the confidence to do better now and I think I'm turning into a better all-round player."

Brooky's other wins came at the French Open in 2002 and the 1998 Austrian Open.

She led after her course-record 66 in the first round and reclaimed a three-shot buffer after third round when she bettered her record with a 65.

The 38-year-old enjoyed a four-shot lead at the final turn and kept her poise despite two double bogeys coming home to earn approximately NZ$ 85,000 for her efforts.

Campbell, second overnight, could only manage a two-over par 74 in the final round of the British Masters to finish in a share of fifth place two shots behind winner Johan Edfors (Sweden).

In his first tournament back after a month break, Campbell started with an early birdie but a double bogey at the ninth and two bogies at the 12th and 14th proved costly.

The US Open champ recovered with two late birdies before a birdie at the final hole dropped him out of contention.

He said he missed some chances in the final round.



"The double bogey was a bad mistake and I had some other opportunities on the second nine that I did not take," Campbell, who wanted to be in contention in his first tournament back after a break and just his seventh tournament of the year, said.

"Overall I can walk away feeling pretty good about myself after a month off and not competing for a while."

◀ Lynette Brooky