

Bubbly Brooky puts title on the line

By RICHARD IVES
Golf writer

LYNETTE BROOKY enters the national women's golf championships starting at Tauranga tomorrow buoyed considerably by her success of the past three days.

Brooky, defending the NZI title she won dramatically at Paraparaumu Beach last year, radiated enthusiasm and confidence last night.

The 23-year-old Wellington-

ian partnered Manawatu's Susan Farron to victory in the four-somes title yesterday. On Tuesday and Wednesday Brooky was an important part of the New Zealand team which beat Australia for the first time in 23 years.

"It was great," said Brooky many times during the interview. "It was so good to wear a New Zealand jacket. The atmosphere in the team was really good. I was born in 1968 so it was great to be a part of our first win since then."

Brooky was making her senior debut during the event and was the unofficial player of the day on Tuesday.

That was a massive tonic for a player who thrives on confidence. She kept that going during the foursomes when she clinched the win with a typical Brooky flourish, holing a 12-metre putt to birdie the last hole.

"I'm pumped up and I feel confident. I'm playing well but so is everyone else. The Canadians are hitting it well, and the Australians — even the Aus-

lian juniors are outdriving me."

Brooky is aiming for a top 10 place in the 72-hole strokeplay at the weekend. "I like strokeplay — it's a better challenge than matchplay because I'm playing against myself and not against someone else."

Yet matchplay is her forte. She says her instinctive nature to gamble suits the one-on-one combat and she wonders too, probably correctly, if she psyches out some opponents.

Brooky was a shock winner last year. She was ranked out-

Blazing Brooky birdie burst buries Farron

From BOB PEARCE

Paraparaumu

Lyn Brooky, of the Grange club in Papatoetoe, blazed her way into the final of the New Zealand women's golf championship with a three-birdie finish to her semifinal at Paraparaumu yesterday.

In the final over 36 holes today she will play the strokeplay champion, Terrill Samuel, of Canada.

Brooky's semifinal win, 6 and 4 over Susan Farron, of Manawatu, showed the feisty former Wellingtonian at her aggressive best.

By the seventh hole she was four up, playing par golf as her 20-year-old opponent struggled to find her rhythm.

When Farron struck back with a 25-foot putt for a birdie to win the eighth and Brooky three-putted to lose the ninth, a tight finish seemed in prospect.

No chance. Brooky birdied the 10th from 20 feet, parred the 11th and finished the faltering Farron off with birdies on the next three holes.

All this in a bitterly cold and gusty north-westerly

which dissipated the effect of watery sunshine.

"I just came down here to see how well I could play Paraparaumu after my time in Auckland," the 22-year-old Brooky said later. "I love this course but I've never played it when it has blown so much."

"I hope it's blowing again tomorrow."

The youngest of eight children, all but one of whom plays golf, Brooky proudly points out that five Brookys play on single-figure handicaps, including her father, Frank.

She moved to Auckland because of frustration at being unable to catch the eye of the Wellington selectors.

Motorbike

"I was ready to chuck the clubs away and that would have broken dad's heart," she said. "But people were so good to me in Auckland and the Stylemaster team are great keeping in touch to see how I am."

Brooky played number three in the Stylemaster national teams tournament for the winning Auckland team.

Once more at home on a motorbike than a golf

course, she works part-time at Titirangi and has recently become engaged to Aucklanders Ray Lazarus.

Samuel, her opponent in the final, is a 29-year-old from Toronto, who is a member of the Canadian team for the world amateur teams championship in Christchurch next week.

She beat her French Canadian team-mate, Eve-Lyne Biron, 6 and 5, in the semifinals and has impressed as a likely titleholder from the start of these NZI championships.

Slick

She is long and straight off the tee and has used the wind as well as anyone this week.

It was noticeable in her match with Biron that she manoeuvred her way into positions where she could attack the pin — minimising the risk of three putts on the slick greens.

Biron developed a fade on her longer shots which the wind whipped into a punishing slice.

Samuel has got off to a good start in most of her matches and she has so far not been under much pressure. Brooky, by contrast, was taken to the 18th before

beating Kerryn Starr (Christchurch) one up in the morning.

The Aucklanders were four up at the turn but then got the putting horrors and lost the 10th, 11th, 13th and 14th to go back to all square.

A 10-footer saved a half on the 15th and she took the lead again on the 17th, getting up and down from the fringe after Starr had sprayed her drive.

Comeback

Starr was a metre from the out-of-bounds with her drive on the last and Brooky's par was good enough for the win.

Samuel held on to a mid-round break to beat Liz Douglas (Christchurch), 2 and 1, in the morning, while Biron beat Tracey McCarten of Levin, 3 and 1.

Farron staged a late comeback to beat Jan Scandrett (Otago), 2 and 1. Farron was two down with five to play, won 14 and 15 with birdies and 16 and 17 with pars.

Best shot of the day was a six-iron hole-in-one by Australian visitor Suzanne McKenzie at the 128m 14th hole. But she still lost her plate match, 3 and 1, to Wellingtonian Chris Wilson.