

Top finish for Brooky

A final nine holes which Lynnette Brooky will want to forget cost the Wellington golfer the Austrian Open today.

Despite carrying home a double bogey and two bogeys, Brooky still managed her best finish on the European Tour, second to Germany's Martina Koch.

Today Brooky scored 72, after earlier rounds of 71 and 72. Her 215 for the NZ\$180,000 tournament was two behind Koch but one better than England's Joanna Morley. Koch needed par or better on the final hole to avoid a play-off and shot a birdie.

Brooky one shot off pace

WELLINGTON'S Lynnette Brooky is second after the opening round of the Australian women's strokeplay golf championship in Brisbane yesterday.

Benefiting from missing the worst of the horribly wet conditions, Brooky shot a three-over-par 75 to trail Queensland's Tracey Guy by one stroke.

Several other players, including Christchurch's Kerry Starr are a further shot behind Brooky at four-over 76 while Timaru's Catherine Knight returned a 77. Susan Farron of Palmerston North is another two strokes back on seven-over 79.

"It was pretty hard out there today," said Brooky, who is playing her first tournament of the year. "The rough was really rough and I could hardly chip out if it.

"The only times I managed to get up and down was out of bunkers. Luckily I did it five times.

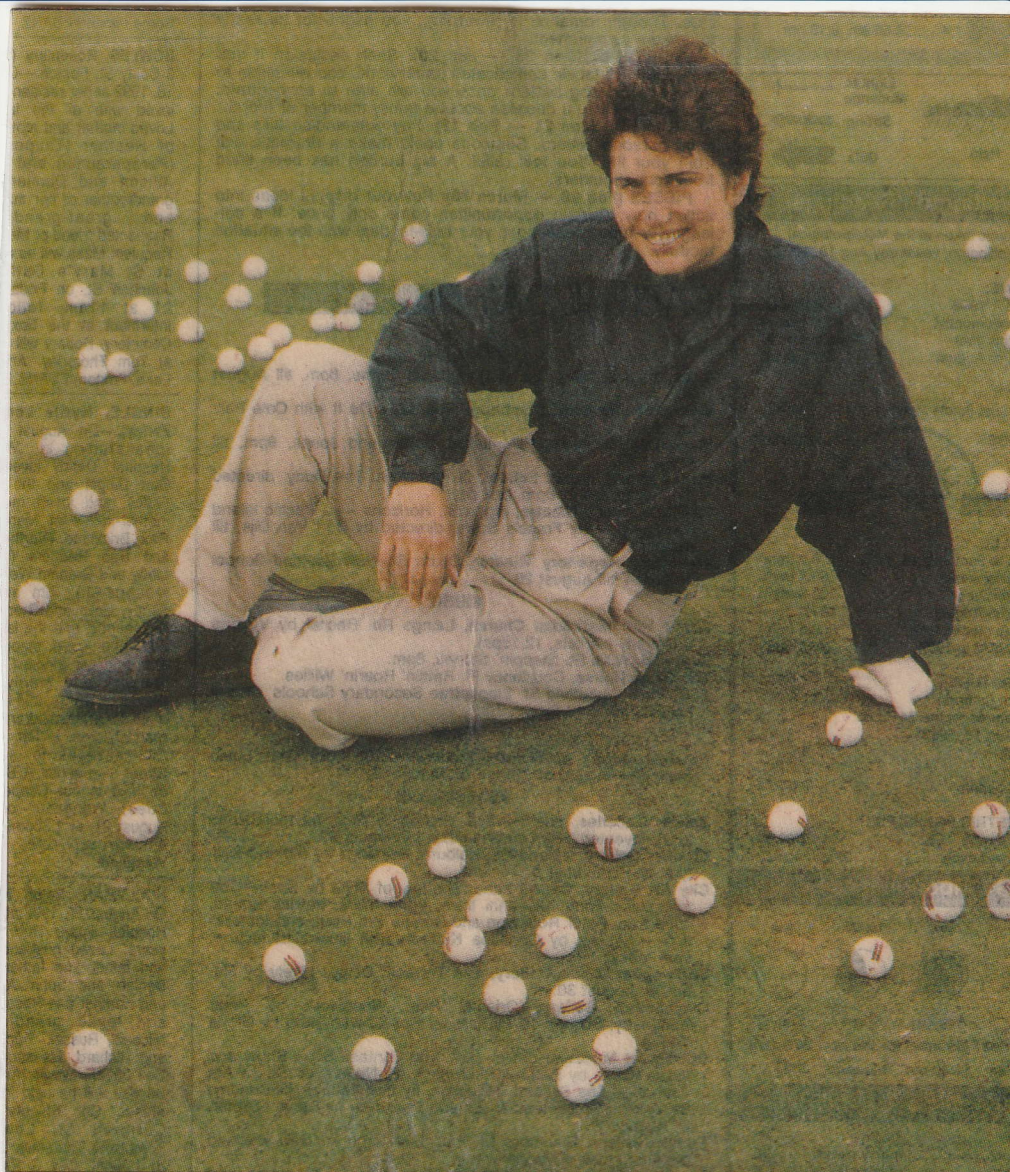
"I'm not playing that well at the moment but hopefully things can only get better."

Brooky, who with the other leading players hit off early in the day, got all the way to the 17th before the stormy conditions finally forced the women from the course for about 40 minutes after the greens became submerged.

Even when play resumed, the rain continued steadily and most of the tailenders were given the option of playing on or retiring and playing their remaining holes before today's second round.

"It was really horrendous out there," Auckland Jo Croskery, who shot an 81, said. — NZPA

In touch. Wellington golfer Lynnette Brooky was three shots off the pace after today's second round of the Evian Open in France. Brooky was one under for the \$NZ1 million tournament following her three-under 69 yesterday and two-over 74 today.



Lynnette Brooky, in her new relaxed mode, takes time out from practice yesterday at the Hutt Valley Golf Centre. Photo ANN SHELTON

Brooky does it her way

LYNNETTE BROOKY has a spring in her step and a twinkle in her eye as she prepares for the Espirito Santo world teams amateur golf championships in Canada next month.

Brooky, 24, is looking more relaxed and confident than at any time in her career and you don't have to look far for the reason.

Earning selection to the New Zealand team, along with fellow Wellingtonian Lisa Aldridge and Susan Farron, for the prestigious world event fulfilled a dream for the likeable Brooky.

Brooky had finally climbed her personal mountain and it had been a far from easy path to the top. There were plenty of setbacks along the way, times when she felt like giving golf away, but they were all forgotten when she made the team.

By RUSSELL GRAY

Now Brooky just wants to be left alone to get on with the job of helping New Zealand go one better than their second placing at the world event two years ago in Christchurch.

She has a new coach, Australian Bill Whitney, and is back in the family nest living at home with her mother and father — Margaret and Frank — and brother Peter.

There are no pretensions about Brooky. How could there be with six brothers and two sisters to keep her feet on the ground?

Golf is a main topic in the Brooky household. Both sisters and five of her brothers play the game and Frank, who introduced her to the game, has played to a handicap as low as two.

There was a time when Brooky was known as something of a rebel. She doesn't deny she has done things she wouldn't do again but doesn't regret her past.

Brooky tried her hand at most sports before settling for golf. As a seven-year-old she was watching her brother play rugby at Tawa when a man asked her if she liked sport.

"I told him I did and he said I should be playing it now watching," she said.

"I took his advice and was soon playing in the boys rugby team. I loved playing any game but softball was my favourite. It was a loud game. You could yell and scream at each other and got a real buzz when you hit the ball and ran round the bases."

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