

Matchplay final could be Australian affair

By Bill Trewern

After numerous upsets at Balmacewen yesterday, the final of the New Zealand women's matchplay championships could become an all-Australian affair and a repeat of last year's contest.

Loraine Lambert (Queensland) beat Rachel Hetherington (New South Wales) in the final last year at Tauranga and they are two of the three Australians in the last eight of the championship.

The third is Cathy Neilson (New South Wales), who posted narrow wins over Jan Scandrett (Invercargill) and Kerry Starr (Christchurch) yesterday.

In a day of surprises, the top two New Zealand players, Lynnette Brooky (Manor Park) and Lisa Aldridge (Paraparaumu Beach), bowed out of the event.

Top qualifier Shelley Duncan (Otago) also made an early exit from the championship, losing to Mary Hore (Tokarahi) in a morning marathon.

The pair were square after a tight tussle and Hore birdied the final hole to force a play-off.

The pair halved the first three holes of the play-off in pairs and both bogeyed the 22nd.

After halving the fifth in pairs, Duncan finished short of the sixth green and failed to get up and down.

The local interest is gone from the championship, with Jan Munden and Dianne Gillett (Otago) both losing their first round matches.

All three Otago players lost their afternoon matches in the plate competition.

Susan Farron (Manawatu) is the only New Zealand rep-



Fresh from her win in the New Zealand women's strokeplay championship at the weekend, Lynnette Brooky (Manor Park) was back in action in the first round of matchplay at Balmacewen yesterday morning. But it was not with the same success. She lost to Robyn Bonniface (Invercargill) on the 7th green.

PICTURE: KEVIN STENT

resentative left in the quarter-finals, although two promising juniors have made it through the first two rounds.

Emma Keeling (Northland) beat Terri McKinnon (Victoria) in the first round by 3 and 2 and Mary Hore in the afternoon at the 19th.

The youthful player was helped after Hore's marathon with Duncan in the morning. Hore played 43 holes yesterday.

South Canterbury junior Catherine Knight won her way through to the last eight with wins over Jan Munden (Otago), 4 and 3, and Robyn Bonniface, on the 17th green.

Sue Ruddenklaun (Dipton) provided most of the thrills, heading Karrie Webb (Queensland) in the morning and Annette Stott (Muriwai) in the afternoon.

Ruddenklaun will have to be on her mettle this morning and will hope to celebrate her

birthday in style at the expense of defending champion Lambert.

But the two matches which could have the greatest effect on the outcome of the championship saw Brooky and Aldridge beaten.

Brooky was fresh from her strokeplay success and keen to get back on the Balmacewen course yesterday, but the experienced Robyn Bonniface (Invercargill), who won the event as Robyn Low

in 1975, had other ideas. The match was all over when Brooky finished in the left-hand bunker at the par-3 17th and failed to get up and down.

Hetherington had a close tussle with Aldridge yesterday afternoon and was downie 1-up playing the final hole.

Hetherington won the final hole and the match and will now play Keeling in the first quarter-final to start this

morning. Farron will play Robyn Cruse (Waitikiri).

The experience of Ruddenklaun could stop Lambert from taking back-to-back New Zealand titles, while Catherine Knight is in top form and could test Cathy Neilson (Australia).

After two rounds of matchplay today the field will be reduced to two, who will contest the 36-hole final tomorrow.