

Daniel's 71 one shot back

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — Janet Coles overcame a bad start Thursday to grab a share of the first-round lead with Lynn Stroney and Ayako Okamoto after the first round of the \$125,000 LPGA Arizona Copper Classic here.

Coles, of Carmel, Calif., shot a two-under-par 70 at the Randolph North Municipal Course.

Beth Daniel, winner of last week's LPGA event at Sarasota, Fla., birdied three of the last four holes to finish with 71 — one stroke off the pace.

Daniel is joined by Amy Alcott, tour rookie Patti Rizzo, Barbara Moxness and amateur Nancy Tomich — a junior at nearby University of Arizona — plus Japanese golfers Tatsuko Ohsako and Yuko Moriguchi.

Leading money winner Hollis Stacy is tied with seven other golfers at even par, two strokes off the lead. Meanwhile, defending champion Nancy Lopez-Melton fired a two-over-par 74.

Coles, saying she was nervous playing in her first event of the season, bogied three of the first six holes.

She managed to pick up one birdie on the front nine before getting four on the back side for her 70. Coles missed a chance for sole possession of first place when her 10-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole wouldn't fall.

Stroney had four birdies and two bogies for her 70. Okamoto got off to a fast start — recording birdies on the second, third and fourth holes. But she faltered thereafter and needed a birdie on 18 to tie for the lead.

Stroney, still looking for her first victory on the tour, said she was surprised her score still was on top of the leader board at the end of the day even though only 10 golfers broke par.