

# Lopez Blows Past Field To Win a Windy Arden

- Scores, B6
  - Carner Comeback All Wet, B2
  - Kite Hangs On for Crosby, B2
- By Dave George

Staff Writer

NORTH MIAMI — A wagonload of windswept women wobbled all around the winner's circle in yesterday's final round of the \$150,000 Elizabeth Arden Classic. Nancy Lopez took the trophy home because she stumbled forward while the others were tottering in the other direction.

Lopez batted out a one-over-par 73 in blustery conditions at Turnberry Isle Country Club and earned her 26th career LPGA victory all the same. She collected just one birdie in a testy trip around the 6,117-yard South Course but that was all she needed for a one-stroke victory over defending champion JoAnne Carner and three other frustrated followers who just couldn't hold on to the tournament-winning total of three-under 285.

Both Carner and a methodical rookie named Stephanie Farwig got fleeting glimpses at three under during their rounds, lost it almost immediately and then had chances to force a playoff with Lopez on the 18th hole. Carner hit her tee shot in the water on the par-three 17th for a double-bogey to fall out of a tie for the lead, and then left a potential eagle putt short by 6 inches on the par-five finishing hole. Farwig also came up a few inches short on 18 with a 12-foot birdie putt

## The Best

Nancy Lopez . . . . . 73-285

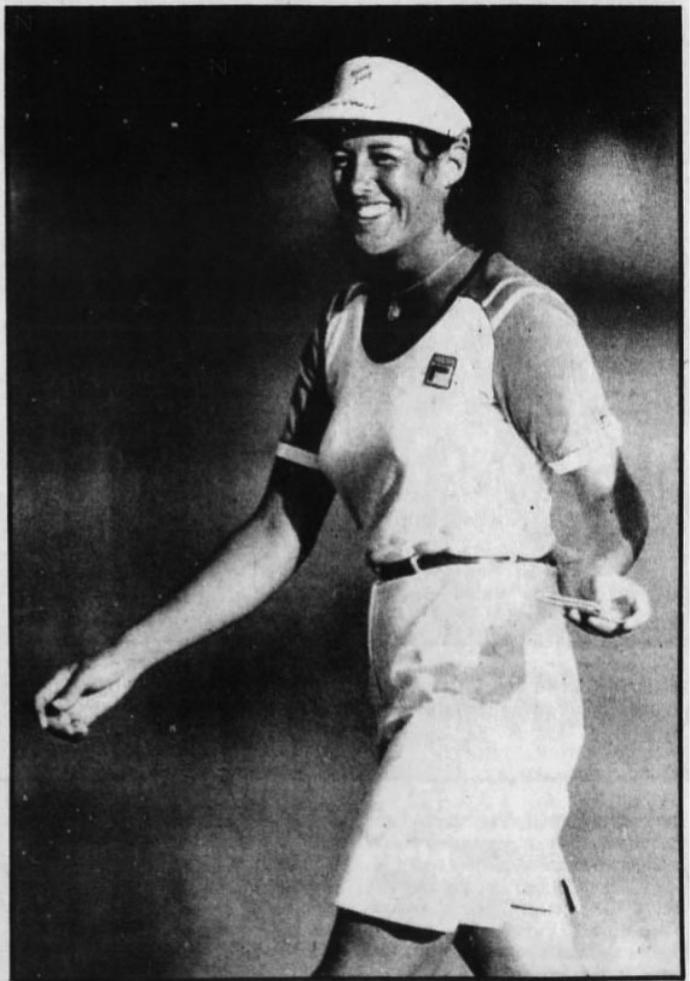
## The Rest

- JoAnne Carner . . . . . 71-286
- Betsy King . . . . . 71-286
- Pat Bradley . . . . . 71-286
- Stephanie Farwig . . . . . 73-286
- Kathy Whitworth . . . . . 71-287
- Janet Coles . . . . . 76-287
- Donna Caponi . . . . . 71-288
- Jan Stephenson . . . . . 72-288
- Sandra Spuzich . . . . . 74-288
- Kathy McMillen . . . . . 71-289
- Pat Meyers . . . . . 71-289
- M. J. Smith . . . . . 73-289
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- Vicki Fergen . . . . . 73-289

that would have forced a playoff.

"I was thinking that whoever made the mistake was not going to win," said Lopez, whose only trouble spot down the stretch came on the 16th green when she dropped an 8-foot putt to save par. "I was thinking that I would just play conservative if I had to, give myself a chance to be on the green and maybe make a few birdies at the end. It was all because of the way the course was playing. Any mistake could have been made the way the wind was blowing.

Turn to ARDEN, B2



The Associated Press

**Nancy Lopez wears a wide smile after victory**  
... she credits lack of mistakes for her first win in state since '78

## Carner's Comeback Winds Up All Wet

By Dave George  
Staff Writer

NORTH MIAMI — Every odd year an LPGA oddity occurs in the \$150,000 Elizabeth Arden Classic. JoAnne Carner, the tour's career money leader and 1982 Player of the Year, takes herself out of contention by dumping a critical shot in the same stupid water hazard and watches her chances for victory sink out of sight.

"I play that hole well every other year," said Carner, who in yesterday's final round moved into a tie for the lead with Nancy Lopez but let it get away when her tee shot on the par-three 17th got caught in the wind and drifted into a greenside lake. "I ought to skip that one."

Two years ago at Turnberry Isle Carner did the same thing on the same hole in the final round and wound up losing in a playoff to Sally Little. Last year she skirted trouble on the hole and wound up winning the tournament by one stroke.

Yesterday she took a double-bogey 5 on No. 17 but still had a chance to force a playoff with eventual winner Nancy Lopez thanks to a tremendous tee shot on the par-five 18th, a 485-yard hole that also is lined by water. Cranking her drive somewhere in the vicinity of 300 yards, Carner had just a 5-iron left to the green and knocked that close enough for an 18-foot run at an eagle-3. The putt was right on line but stopped 6 inches short of the cup.

"I hit that drive a long way," said Carner, who broke par in just one of her four rounds this week but still came within one shot of repeating as Elizabeth Arden champion. "That was double-bogey frustration. I only had 184 yards to the front of the green and

173 to the hole from where my tee ball stopped."

The 17th hole also reached up and grabbed third-round leader Janet Coles, who hit her tee shot into the water as well and stumbled home with a closing 76. Carner shot 71 despite her double-bogey there and still managed to come home in 35 thanks to birdies on holes 11, 15 and 18. All week she threw the ball right at the sticks and all week she couldn't find a way to make something out of her many birdie opportunities.

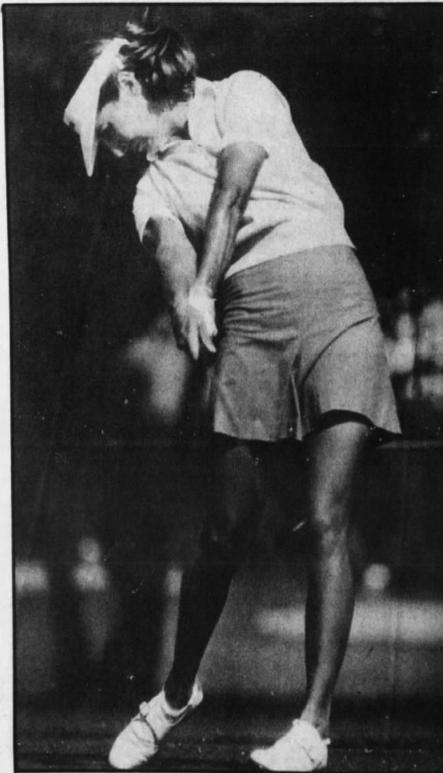
"I kept thinking that I was playing so well that all I had to do was knock something in and get going," Carner said. "Every time I'd just hit the edge of the cup or roll it over the edge. I just couldn't make anything."

Some of Carner's patience was repaid on the 15th hole yesterday, when she rrammed in a long putt to pull into a tie with Lopez at three under.

"I hit a 6-iron hole high to the right about 50 feet away and hit a line-drive putt in," she said with a laugh. After earning 37 LPGA victories and a spot in the tour's exclusive Hall of Fame, Carner knows there will be other opportunities, and she is hitting the ball too solidly to let one frustrating finish sour her outlook on the 1983 season.

"I played really well today; just one bad shot," she said. "I just did not putt well. I had 33 putts for three of the four days here and you can't win doing that."

"That eagle putt on 18 was on line, straight in the hole. It was a slow green but I didn't dream it would be that slow. I guess I broke the cardinal rule when you've got to go for it and you forget to hit it."



Staff Photo by Stephen Crowley

Janet Coles tees off early in yesterday's round . . . third-round leader falters with a 76 to finish tied for thirdplace

## Golf

# Kite Wins Crosby By 2-Shot Margin

● Scores, B6

Post Wire Services

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. — Tom Kite struggled to a final-round one-over-par 73 yesterday but held on in the rain and wind to post a two-stroke victory in the 42nd Bing Crosby National Pro-Am golf tournament.

Kite, so frequently a challenger and so rarely a winner, captured the fifth title of his 12-year PGA Tour career with a 12-under-par total of 276. Rex Caldwell and Cal Peete tied for second at 278.

Kite, leading by six strokes after eight holes on the final round, had to fight off an impending collapse to preserve the victory.

His swing became a little quick late in the day and he bogeyed three consecutive holes beginning on the 15th. But, with two shots in hand, he put his drive in the fairway on the 18th, which features the pounding surf of Carmel Bay on the left and out of bounds on the right.

The victory was worth \$58,500 from the total purse of \$325,000. It also helped stem the tide of questions Kite cannot answer — namely, how can he play so well and win so few?

"I wish I knew the answer," has been the answer on countless occasions from the man who, in the last two seasons, has had 36 finishes in the top 10 and only two victories.

While Kite was fighting the cold and the rain that misted his eyeglasses, Caldwell — who had lost in playoffs in the two previous tournaments — tried to rally.

"I played well. Almost well enough," he said. "I hit it right where I wanted. If I'd made that 4-footer (for birdie) on the last hole, I might have had a chance."

But he missed the putt, finished with a 73 and tied for second for the third week in a row, a three-week stretch in which he has won \$95,233. Peete, who pitched in for an eagle 2, had a closing round of 70.

Meanwhile, Jack Nicklaus, who birdied four of his last five holes for a 72 and a 280 total, finished sixth and won \$11,700. That made him the first man to go past \$4 million in career winnings. Nicklaus, holder of a record 17 major professional titles, now has \$4,006,633.

Bob Gilder and Danny Edwards tied for fourth at 279. Gilder, a winner at Phoenix last week, was putting pressure on Kite until he hit his tee shot out of bounds on the final hole. He finished with a 72. Edwards shot 71.

Tom Watson, who beat Nicklaus for the U.S. Open title on this course six months ago, shot a 69, the best round of the day, and was at 281.

Kite admitted things were "starting to get a little tense" when three strokes of a once-commanding five-shot lead had flitted away on a string of bogeys and he faced a critical tee shot on the picturesque 18th hole.

"That's when I got a little nervous," Kite said. "What a crazy game this is. How can it go from so easy to so hard? I'd been hitting the ball right at the flag all day, and then it started going bad."

## Arden

"I was trying just not to give it away to anybody, just go ahead and play and concentrate on what I needed to do. If somebody was going to beat me, let them beat me but don't beat yourself."

Third-round leader Janet Coles probably had the same goal as she started the day with a one-shot lead over Lopez and two over Farwig. But she didn't get the same results, limping home with a 76 to settle into a

third-place tie at 287 with Kathy Whitworth. Coles went out in 38 but still held the lead until both Lopez and Farwig passed her with birdies on No. 12. She suffered the same fate as Carner at 17, hitting her tee shot into the water, but went in after it to salvage a bogey by wading in up to her ankles and splashing it back into play sans penalty.

With steady winds from the nearby

Intracoastal Waterway raking the course all afternoon, a round of par-72 suddenly became a splendid score. No one cracked 70 and Pat Bradley and Betsy King jumped into a second-place tie with Farwig and Carner on the strength of a pair of 71s that featured birdies on No. 18.

Farwig, a 23-year-old minitour grad playing in just her 11th LPGA event, represented herself well while playing

in the leaders' group for the second time in two weeks. In the season-opening Mazda Classic of Deer Creek, she shot herself into contention with opening scores of 71 and 69 but then checked out with a 76 and a 75 to finish tied for 26th. Yesterday she nearly stumbled upon the \$22,500 first prize despite herself, saddling her scorecard with five bogeys but coming on strong to put the heat on Lopez when

she smoked a 5-iron within 3 feet for a birdie on No. 17 and then put herself in position for a birdie on 18 by floating a sand wedge hole high about 15 feet from paydirt.

Lopez, No. 6 on the LPGA career money list, is on a roll. She won the Mazda Japan Classic to close the 1982 season and just two tournaments later is a winner again. Her only other Florida victory was the 1978 Bent Tree

Classic in Sarasota during her sensational nine-win rookie season. Ironically, Lopez' other tournament victory in 1982 — the J&B Scotch Pro-Am — came her way despite a 73 on the final day.

"This gets me closer to the (LPGA) Hall of Fame, which is something that I want to accomplish very much," Lopez said. "And it really starts off the year great to have a win."

From B1