

# Consistency Important To Miller

By Patrick McManamon

Staff Writer

NORTH MIAMI BEACH — Call her dull. She'll agree.

"I hit a lot of greens and fairways," said Alice Miller after yesterday's second round at the Elizabeth Arden Classic at Turnberry Isle. "I play just nice, boring golf."

Nice and boring, right into second place, three strokes behind leader JoAnne Carner. Miller yawned her way to a second-round 69, giving her a total of 139, making her the only golfer within shouting distance of Carner.

"I hit some good approach shots," she said of her three-under round. "I misjudged the wind a lot playing in the crosswind. The thing that I liked was that I hit 15 greens."

"But it was a good steady round in that I didn't have to scramble a lot around the greens. Even though I didn't drive the ball as well as I would have like to, at least I kept it in play."

Miller's success comes six years after she almost gave up golf. Coaching from Ed Oldfield — who coaches Betsy King, Donna White, Jane Blalock and Jan Stephenson, among others — gave Miller incentive to continue, and the pieces came together in 1983, when she had her best year on the LPGA Tour.

After winning almost \$105,000 her first five years, Miller won \$157,321 and her first tournament (the West Virginia Classic) in 1983. She followed in 1984 with two more victories (again at West Virginia and at the Sarasota Classic) and took home \$112,000.

"Last year was a very erratic year for me," she said. "I had a very up-and-down year and I think the two victories were the saving grace of the year."

"I don't look at winning as being all important. I'd rather play consistently well throughout the year as I did in 1983."

Through four rounds of the Mazda Classic last week — where she finished at two-over 290 — and two rounds of the Arden, Miller has averaged 71.5 shots per round, consistent scoring that should keep her high on the year's money list.

"My short game's been quite good," she said. "I missed a couple greens today and maybe a three or four greens (Thursday). I putted well overall. I had a little more confidence in my short putts."

"I'm not hitting my driver well at all this week. I'm not hitting it solid so I'm hitting as long as I'd like to. Fortunately it hasn't hurt me yet, but I feel that if I can drive the ball a bit better the next two days I'll be in good shape."



Loren Hosack/THE POST

## Janet Coles tries to coax in a birdie putt on 10 ... she needed lots of help but got little and finished with a 76

● How not to make a cut: Betsy King, last year's leading money winner, came into No. 18 needing at least a par, probably a birdie, to make the tournament cut, which fell at 152.

King put her second shot on the par-5 hole left of the green near an out-of-bounds stake.

After officials took several minutes to determine — correctly — that King was out of bounds, she lost one stroke and had to return to where her tee shot landed for her fourth shot. Result: double-bogey 7. King missed the cut by three shots.

Worse was Barb Bunkowsky's experience, who put her tee shot in shallow water on No. 7, a 145-yard

par-3. Choosing to hit from the water, Bunkowsky's ball rolled back into the hazard.

Bunkowsky returned to the tee for her fifth shot — there was no drop area — and missed the green. By the time she finished she had a 10. Evidently the experience unnerved her, because she finished double-bogey, bogey.

Total damage: 10 strokes lost to par. Bunkowsky missed the cut by eight strokes.

● Winds do not just affect golf at Turnberry Isle. JoAnne Carner has been staying on her boat at the Marina during the tournament.

"I love it," Carner said. "It's a great marina. But it was windy. We sure were rocked to sleep last night."