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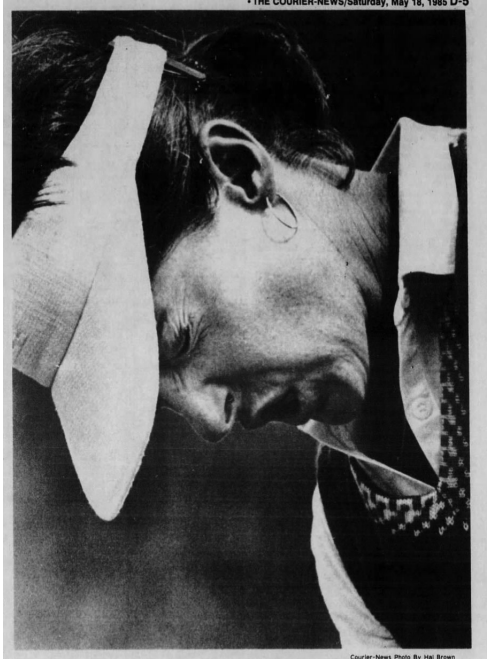

Courier-News Photo By Hal Brown

Janet Coles reacts after missing a putt on the 18th-hole yesterday at the $175,000 Chrysler-Plymouth Classic at Fairmount Country Club in Chatham Township. Coles of Carmel, Calif., was far from the top with a 77.

Pros burn up Fairmount

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downhill-uphill straightaway 431-yard par 5.

If you didn't birdie the hole, you lost 2 strokes to many of the leaders who eagled, including Jones, Bradley, Clark and Patti Rizzo, who also shot 70.

The loudest crowd roar on the 18th went to Jones, who approached the hole 5-under-par in late afternoon and then hit a 3-wood squarely. The 210-yard shot hit in front of the green and rolled within 12 feet of the cup.

She dropped the putt, and earlier finishers Lopez and Stephenson fell back to second place.

"I was second in the U.S. Open to Hollis Stacy last year," said 4-year pro Jones who lives in New Mexico. "I guess I haven't lived up to that high finish yet, maybe because I put too much pressure on myself.

"I still haven't won on tour, but this is the best score I've ever shot and I generally play better in the latter stages of a tournament. Hopefully this is the start of something good."

Her tee-to-green golf was near perfect. She hit 17 greens and salvaged par on the par 4 green she missed with a short putt after a nifty chip out of the rough.

She dropped birdie putts of 6, 22, 6, 20 and 3 feet, but missed four other birdie attempts inside 8 feet.

"The key to winning here is being well under par on the five par 5s," said Jones, a 5-foot-5 120 pounder. "I got a birdie and an eagle today, but I may have to do better."

The three back nine par 5s, which measure 446, 461 and 431 yards, are easily reachable following a good drive.

Lopez birdied two of the first three par fives on the back nine, and reached the finishing hole with a drive and 2-iron, 60 feet from the pin.

"Then I three-putted," said Lopez, who still commands the largest galleries. "I putted the first one 12 feet past the cup and missed it coming back."

Lopez, who won this 10-year-old tourney twice, is seeking her first victory this season.

Her husband, Mets' third baseman Ray Knight, watched Nancy play and Nancy planned to attend last night's game at Shea Stadium.

Stephenson, who dropped five birdie putts and had one bogie, is coming off a victory in the French Open.

"I feel relaxed and my concentration is good," said Stephenson, "because I took Monday off. I work almost every Monday at exhibition-clinic outings or dinners or commercials and it's very tiring because you do quite a bit of extra traveling."

CHATHAM TOWNSHIP (AP) — Scores from yesterday's first round of the $175,000 LPGA-Chrysler Plymouth Classic at the 6,265-yard, par-73 Fairmount Country Club:

Rosie Jones	35-31—66
Jan Stephenson	35-34—69
Sally Quinlan	35-34—69
Nancy Lopez	35-34—69
Kris Monaghan	35-34—69
Allison Finney	36-34—70
Allison Fisher	36-34—70
Pat Bradley	36-33—70
Patti Rizzo	36-33—70
Cathy Morse	36-34—70
Penny Hammel	36-34—70
Marci Bozarth	36-34—70
Judy Clark	36-34—70
Joan Joyce	36-34—70
Del Germain	37-34—71
Barb Bunkowsky	40-32—72
Donna White	36-36—72
Alexandra Reinhardt	35-37—72
Amy Alcott	36-36—72
Jane Geddes	36-36—72
Carolyn Hill	37-35—72
Ayako Okamoto	34-38—72
Mitzi Edge	36-36—72
Lynn Adams	36-36—72
Lenore Muraoka	34-38—72
Denise Strebig	35-35—72
Caroline Gowan	36-36—72
Judy Rankin	38-35—73
Penny Pulz	38-35—73
Betsy King	39-34—73
Dianne Dailey	37-36—73
Karen Permezel	35-38—73
Patty Hayes	37-36—73
Terri Luckhurst	36-37—73
Jan Flynn	36-37—73
Sue Fogelman	37-37—74
Shelley Hamlin	36-38—74
M.J. Smith	38-36—74
Barbra Mizrahie	36-38—74
Cathy Sherbert	36-38—74
Beth Daniel	34-40—74
Stephanie Farwig	38-36—74
Dawn Coe	37-37—74
Julie Pyne	39-36—75
Mindy Moore	39-36—75
Cindy Hill	37-38—75
Marta Figueras-Dotti	38-37—75
Lori West	34-41—75
Jo Ann Washam	39-36—75
Nancy Rubin	37-38—75
Robin Walton	37-38—75
Beverley Davis	36-39—75
Dottie Mochrie	36-39—75
Marlene Floyd	37-38—75
Kim Shipman	37-38—75
Nancy Scranton	39-36—75
Vicki Alvarez	36-39—75
La Ann Cassaday	38-37—75
Barbara Pendergast	36-39—75
Susan Sanders	36-39—75
Young	38-37—75
Heather Drew	36-39—75
Cindy Floom	35-40—75
Ruth Jessen	37-38—75
Karen Graviev	39-36—75
Debbie Meisterin	37-39—76
Mary DeLong	36-40—76
Debbie Massey	38-38—76*
Noreen Friel	40-36—76
Mary Dwyer	38-38—76
Janet Coles	43-34—77
Joyce Benson	35-42—77
Anne-Marie Pell	38-39—77
Martha Nause	39-38—77
Cathy Hoss	39-38—77
Terry Mann	37-40—77
Mary Hallenan	38-39—77
Margaret Ward	38-39—77
Cindy Ferro	38-39—77
Lauri Peterson	38-39—77
Sarah LaVigue	37-41—78
Lynn Parker	40-38—78
Lynn Connelly	40-38—78
Shirley Furlong	39-39—78
Melissa Whitmire	39-39—78
Jane Lock	41-37—78
Lauren Anderson	40-38—78
Janet Angel	40-38—78
Linda Hunt	42-37—79
Susie McAllister	39-40—79
Laurie Rinker	42-37—79
Carole Charbonnier	38-41—79
Susie Pager	38-41—79
Lisa Young	40-39—79
Cindy Figg	41-38—79
Anne Kelly	38-42—80
Mina Rodriguez-Hardin	41-39—80
Val Skinner	40-40—80
Jan Kiefer	40-40—80
Marlene Hagge	39-41—80
Marlene Hagge	39-41—80
Jerilyn Britz	38-42—80
Elaine Crosby	42-39—81
Charlaine Tatz	39-42—81
Laurie Blair	42-40—82
Lee Steffens	38-44—82
Nancy Maunder	45-39—84
Laura D'Alessandro	44-41—85

Local golfers struggle in outing against pros

CHATHAM TOWNSHIP — While the well-known pros were tearing up the Fairmount Country Club course yesterday, three New Jersey amateurs playing in the $175,000 Chrysler-Plymouth Charity Golf Classic found the course somewhat challenging.

Charlaine Tatz of Scotch Plains, 20, topped the Jersey contingent with 8-over-par 39-42—81 in a round that saw her hit nine greens.

Lee Steffens, 25, of Summit scored 38-44—82, and Laura D'Alessandro of Toms River, 17, current State Amateur titleholder, carded 44-41—85.

It was the first time any of the Jerseyites, all special invitees, played head-to-head against members of the Ladies professional Golf Association.

"I really wasn't nervous," said Tatz, "maybe just a little bit off the first tee. All I wanted to do was get the drive in the air. I hit it pretty good, hit the green and got a par."

The University of Alabama sophomore hit six greens in regulation on the front side, but only three on the back, which she found "pretty disappointing."

"Tomorrow's another day," she said, "and I hope to do better."

Her father Charles, head pro at Ash Brook in Scotch Plains who caddied for her, immediately took Charlaine to the practice tee.

"She's standing too upright with her irons," Charles said, "but that's easily correctible."

Plainfield native Steffens, who started playing golf 6 years ago at age 19, said a triple bogie 6 on the 172-yard par three 17th killed her chance to break 80.

The Batusrol Golf Club member, current Women's Metropolitan Match Play champ, is hoping, like Tatz, to join the tour and hopes her game progresses to the point where she'll try to pass her LPGA playing test in the fall.

"I hit the ball long enough off the tee, about 220, 230 yards," said the 5-foot-10 Steffens, "but I notice that the pros hit one less iron to the greens than I do. They are stronger and I have to work on that."

"I was so nervous I hit the ball all over the place," said D'Alesandro, who was consoled after the round by her father, who caddied for her.

-GEORGE GOVLICK

Top starting times

Pairings of leaders for today's second round of the $175,000 Chrysler-Plymouth Charity Golf Classic for touring women professionals at Fairmount Country Club. (Scores in parentheses):

11:33 a.m. — Amy Alcott (72), Denise Strebig (72), Mitzie Edge (72).

11:42 a.m. — Barb Bunkowsky (72), Carolyn Hill (72), Caroline Gowan (72).

Noon — Ayako Okamoto (72), Lynn Adams (72), Alexandra Reinhardt (72).

12:09 p.m. — Judy Clark (70), Dot Germain (71), Joan Joyce (71).

12:18 p.m. — Allison Finney (70), Cathy Morse (70), Patti Rizzo (70).

12:27 p.m. — Pat Bradley (70), Laura Baugh (70), Penny Hammell (70).

12:36 p.m. — Jan Stephenson (69), Kris Monaghan (69), Marci Bozarth (70).

12:45 p.m. — Rosie Jones (66), Nancy Lopez (69), Sally Quinlan (69).

First pairing is 7:30 a.m.; final pairing is 12:45 p.m.

The field of 36 threesomes is comprised of 105 pros and 3 amateurs, to be cut to the low-scoring 70 players and ties for tomorrow's 18-hole final round.