



Shawn Spence, FLORIDA TODAY

**LOOKING AHEAD:** Leader Janet Coles follows tee shot Saturday at the S&H Classic in St. Petersburg.

## Coles overtakes Bradley in S&H

By Mike Bianchi  
FLORIDA TODAY

ST. PETERSBURG — Janet Coles has played her last rendition of "Sophomore Blues." Now, she is ready to take her position at the head of the class.

After third-round action of the LPGA S&H Classic Saturday, Coles found herself 3 strokes ahead of Pat Bradley — the LPGA version of the smartest kid in the class.

Coles, who was 3 strokes from the lead going into Saturday's round at the Pasadena Yacht and County Club, tied her previous-best round with a 5-under-67 and is 12-under. Bradley, the tour's hottest player and leading money winner, struggled to a 71 and is at 9-under.

Two players — Betsy Barrett and Kathy Whitworth — are at 7-under and five others are at 6-under, including second-round leader Lori Garbacz, who was 4-over Saturday.

Naturally, Coles likes her position, especially since she has kicked those low-down, no-good sophomore blues.

"The sophomore blues are like this," Coles explained. "This is my 10th year on the tour. During my eighth and ninth years, my desire wasn't what it should have been. I wanted to be home, not on the tour."

"The first five years of the tour are exciting, different. Then, all of the sudden it becomes a job. When I was a rookie, it was all fun. I never even thought about making money. Then, it's like I have two cars, a house and I have to make money to pay the bills.

Now, I just don't worry about it. I'm recharged."

Coles won the last of her two tour victories in 1983. A third win would mean holding off Bradley, who needs just \$33,079 to become the first LPGA golfer ever to earn \$2 million.

Consistency is Bradley's trademark. She has finished in the top 11 in nine of 10 tournaments this season and won the Dinah Shore Invitational earlier this month. She has played in 348 events and finished in the top 10 a phenomenal 197 times (57 percent). She has been in the top five 138 times (40 percent) and in the top two 56 times (13 percent). Of those 56, she has won 17.

"You can never take it easy when Pat Bradley is behind you," said Barrett, who carded a career-best 5-under.

"I don't usually look at leader-boards," Cole said. "But if it comes to a match-play situation, I have to look. With Pat behind me, I'll have to play as well in the final round as I have in the last three rounds."

In contrast, Bradley must play much better than she did Saturday. In comparison to Coles' 27 putts, Bradley took 35 putts to finish her round.

On the par-5 18th hole, Bradley was on the green in two, but ran her 50-footer five feet past the hole. She missed from there.

Bradley had 11 birdies and no bogeys during the first two rounds. Saturday, despite hitting 17 straight greens after the first hole, she had three birdies and two bogeys. Coles carded six birdies and a bogey.

■ Results, 11C.