

## Coles gets back into LPGA swing



Ricky Rogers ● Staff

LPGA tour player Janet Coles gets plenty of help reading a putt from three members of her group. Offering different views are, left to right, Ramiro Muralles, Jim King and Mike Stevison.

### Layoff makes golfing tour fun again

DAVID CLIMER

Sports Writer

The hectic schedule — St. Petersburg, Fla., for the S&H Classic one day and Nashville for a benefit tournament the next — didn't seem to bother Janet Coles.

Never mind that she went from losing the Ladies Professional Golf Association tournament by one shot to captaining a team that finished eight shots behind in yesterday's Ronald McDonald LPGA Pro-Am at Hillwood Country Club.

From the thrill/agonies of a tight tournament finish to a five-man scramble, golf is enjoyable for Coles.

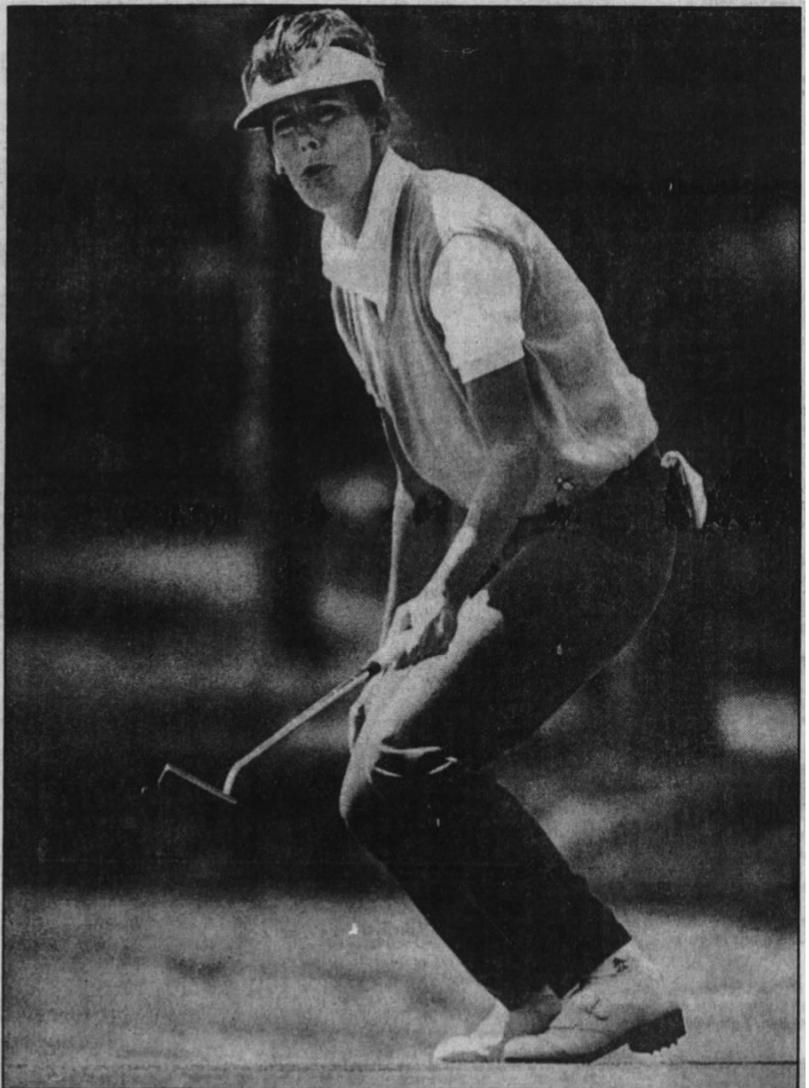
It wasn't always the case. A couple of years ago, beset by personal prob-

lems and dealing with the golfing version of "burn-out," Coles went AWOL from the women's tour.

"I talked to other players who had gone through the same thing and I realized there was no easy way out," she said.

"It seemed like I had been playing golf all my life, so the hardest thing for me to do was stop. The most natural thing in the world for me was to get up in the morning and head to the golf course. But it was a habit I had to break."

That pause refreshed her game. Now Coles is back as a tournament regular and ranks 20th on the LPGA money list with \$33,410 so far this



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Janet Coles' putt fails to respond to her body english during the Ronald McDonald LPGA Pro-Am golf tournament at Hillwood Country Club. Coles' team finished with a 3-under-par 69.

year. She even finds time to fit in a few charity appearances like yesterday's wind-blown event at Hillwood, which benefitted Ronald McDonald Houses, where families of hospitalized children are housed.

The game is fun again ... even when the key putts don't drop as happened on the 18th green Sunday

in her one-shot loss to Pat Bradley at St. Petersburg.

"I hated to lose because I had played so well, but Pat made a longer putt for a birdie and I just didn't come through with the pressure on," she said. "But I'm very encouraged because I think I put together four solid rounds, probably the best four

rounds I've ever played consecutively."

Dale Eggeling, who tied for 18th at St. Petersburg on Sunday, helped her scramble team to an 11-under-par 61 and a two-shot victory in yesterday's Ronald McDonald Pro-Am. Joining her in the fivesomes were Bill Thorup, Wayne Murphy, Jo Ann Mullinix and Nick Damico. ■