

Windy conditions rule Doherty opening round

By Steve Waters
Special to The Post

FORT LAUDERDALE — Strong winds that whipped across Coral Ridge Country Club made for challenging conditions in Tuesday's opening round of match play in the 87th Ione D. Jones/Doherty Women's Amateur Championship.

Everything from tee shots to approaches to putts were affected by the 20-plus mph winds that blew all day.

In the Amateur Championship division, seventh-seeded Jamie Freedman outsmarted the wind to defeat No. 10 Amy Kennedy of Naples, 5 and 3.

"The conditions were very tough, the greens are extremely firm and you definitely have to know what angles to come in on or else you're not going to have a good miss and it makes it extremely tough to get up and down," said Freedman, who grew up in Miami Beach, played four years on the golf team at Nova Southeastern University and now lives in Davie. "You've got to play smart. Not only hit the ball well but definitely play smart.

"I've been working a lot since the summer on my ball striking and I'm putting it together slowly but surely. It comes and goes and today it was really good. I hit 12 of 15 greens."

Freedman was 3 up through eight holes, lost the ninth and 10th holes, then won four of the next five holes to close out Kennedy.

Freedman plays Alexa Pano



Marisa Messana of Plantation rolls a birdie putt during her match Tuesday against Dana Williams of Boca Raton in the 87th Ione D. Jones/Doherty Women's Amateur Championship at Coral Ridge Country Club. Messana won 3 and 2. [STEVE WATERS/SPECIAL TO THE POST]

of Lake Worth today at 8:16 a.m. The 2017 champion, the second-seeded Pano was the medalist in Monday's qualifier with a 1-over-par 73 and had a bye for Tuesday's matches.

Eighth-seeded Marisa Messana of Plantation defeated No. 9 Dana Williams of Boca Raton, 3 and 2. She plays top-seeded defending champion Meghan Stasi of Oakland Park in today's first match at 8.

No. 5 Melissa Loh of Dallas defeated No. 12 Shirley Vaughan of Canton, Ohio, 6 and 4. Loh plays No. 4 Courtney McKim of Raleigh, N.C., who had a bye. No. 6 Marie Arnoux of Miami, a 6-and-4 winner over No. 11 Diane Booth of Las Vegas, plays third-seeded Elle Nachmann of Boca Raton, who also had a bye.

The wind couldn't stop two-time Senior Championship division winner Lisa Schlesinger of Fort Myers as she goes for a

three-peat. She overcame some early struggles to defeat Ellie Large of Jupiter, 5 and 4.

Schlesinger, 61, the top seed as the defending champion among women 50 and over, plays No. 8 seed Patsy Ehret of Stuart, a 2-up winner over No. 9 Susan Temple of Vero Beach, at 8:32 a.m.

In other Senior Championship matches, No. 15 Taffy Brower of Boynton Beach upended second-seeded Tama Caldabaugh of Ponte Vedra Beach, 4 and 3. She plays No. 10 Terrill Samuel of Etobicoke, Ontario, the runner-up to Schlesinger the last two years and a 6-and-5 winner over No. 7 Sara Jane Rose of Tamarac.

Third-seeded Gigi Higgins of Cape Coral needed 20 holes to defeat No. 14 Beatriz de Arenas of Guatemala. Higgins plays No. 11 Meg Giusti of The Villages, who defeated sixth-seeded Reggie Parker of Hobe Sound, 4 and 3.