



Staff Photo by Bob Daemmrlich

Barbara Puett watches a putt on No. 7.

Puett captures women's golf title

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In the last few weeks, Barbara Puett has spent more time with carpet swatches and paint samples than she has with her golf clubs. And, when she has had a few minutes to spare from the house she and her husband Roane are building, it seems that one of her three rather active children has needed some attention — or, at the very least, a ride to or from somewhere.

In fact, Puett was so busy that she wasn't even going to enter the City Women's Golf Championships this week at Morris Williams Golf Course, but at the last moment she changed her mind. "I thought it might be good for me to get away (from the home construction)," she said. "Good to get my mind off of it for a while."

With only a few exceptions — there were some items to check on at the new house — Puett did just that, as she turned her attention to golf for five days and came away with her sixth city title. After beating Fern Weedon, and former city champs Sue Leach and Fran Beard on successive days, Puett polished off Custis Wright 4-and-3 in Friday's finals.

Her victory was no surprise to Austin's golfers. Puett, who won the Austin Country Club Women's Championship last spring, dominated the tournament in the early 60s, winning in 1961, 1962, 1963 and 1965, but gave up golf for nearly 10 years while she was raising her three children, ages five, 12 and 14. She came back in 1976 to finish second, then won her fifth title '77. Number six now puts her two up on her husband, a four-time city men's champ.

Ironically, it was Roane who put Barbara on the way to this year's title. After a miserable qualifying round where she had 40 putts on 18 holes, Barbara decided she needed a lesson. And, since Austin Country Club's Harvey Penick was busy Monday, she settled for Roane, who incidentally had 43 putts in his final round of the City Men's Championship last week.

"I decided I didn't have anything to lose," she said. "I changed my whole grip and everything."

It paid off. Although she didn't have any tremendous rounds, Puett did shoot 3 over par in Thursday's semifinal match. "After that qualifying round, things came together and I played well," she said.