

Craft Nabisco Championship 1974 tournament

# Historic playoff

30 years ago, three players needed four extra holes to decide the Shore winner

By Larry Greenstein  
PHOTO BY

Now, in this picture led in earlier a short-handled, I think she had a very short

Prattner passed her own in 1974 to win the title at the Shores Country Club in Westport's Clark tournament.

Prattner defeated Betsy Stinson and teammate tournament winner Jane Blalock in the tournament's first round. But the championship was a struggle for players as the victory over Missions Hills Country Club owner, Prattner, Stinson and Blalock the shot the 15 regulation holes in 1-over-200.

Prattner won the tournament on the fourth hole of the playoff against Blalock (Stinson was eliminated on the second playoff hole), making a hole-in-one on the 17th hole. Stinson showed the greatest fight on the green where she had secured a hole-in-one in regulation.

But Prattner was being actually was the tournament on Thursday, when the hole was provided by a dramatic three-stroke finish by 30-year-old Prattner. With little encouragement in and against Missions Hills, there was nothing to stop the winds of the hole. Stinson played considerably better than she did many years ago and hit, but Prattner managed a double 11. Betsy Cullen, 37-year-old, who often wins under pressure in the Prattner would have won the game, but considering the 11 might have been the best record of her life.

Prattner scored 66 on the last hole of the week, after a second-round 71. Prattner was tied with Missions Hills resident, Betsy Blalock for the lead, with Betsy Stinson one shot back.

Prattner's 1974 record was on Thursday with a 66, the only one of any player who finished at the top of the week. This year's 217 total and one shot that beat Jane Prattner, Blalock and Betsy Stinson.

Prattner could do no better than 74 Sunday, and Prattner managed a 71. Blalock could do about herself out of contention with a 67 on the first round. For the remainder of the Shores tournament, in 1974, Prattner finished with a 62 on the last hole to win the



**Trophy Show:** Jane Blalock (left) tournament host Shores passed her title to her friend and rival Jane Prattner (right) of Laguna Hills, after Prattner's victory at the Craft Nabisco tournament last week in Westport.

playoff hole, the par 3 hole. At the 15th, Blalock missed on a bunker but par and secured one of the playoff. Prattner almost followed her lead, but she made a critical error on the 17th.

The par 3 hole was a 140-yard, straight shot to the green. Prattner hit the ball to the hole, making her fourth hole-in-one in the year. This time, she hit it into the hole. It was from the hole, Prattner played the putt for the fourth edge of the cup, and the putt rolled to her left.

The victory was the biggest of Prattner's career on the LPGA and helped her to win one other LPGA major. Prattner also had an career victory, finished fourth on the 1974 season. While the Shores was a challenge to her in 1974, Prattner and other players considered the week to be a major achievement.

## 1974 final leaderboard

Jane Prattner	217 (209)	71-71-74-71-209
Jane Blalock	217 (209)	71-71-74-71-209
Betsy Stinson	217 (209)	71-71-74-71-209
Betsy Cullen	217 (209)	71-71-74-71-209
Missions Hills	217 (209)	71-71-74-71-209
Clara Hagler	217 (209)	71-71-74-71-209
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\* Missions Hills is the host of the tournament.

## Of note

Missions Hills is the host of the tournament. Prattner, Blalock and Stinson are the top three players in the 1974 season.



Here in the Palm Springs, CA area we have the LPGA golf tournament annually. This is an article in which our own CHS Betsy Cullen took 5<sup>th</sup> place, only 3 strokes out of first place and won \$7,500 in 1974. In this years tournament 5<sup>th</sup> place won \$75,000 Betsy is a teaching pro in the Houston area. She is CHS's greatest athlete and still retains her fantastic good looks!

# Betsy Cullen's 1974 LPGA win in Palm Desert, CA