

USGA National Women's State Team Championship - Betty Baran

The adage 'being in the right place at the right time' sure rang true for me. Every eight years our association's president is selected as the team captain for the USGA National Women's State Team Championship. So, this year I had the honor to serve as the team captain for the California Women's State Team. The team members were Lynne Cowan, Karen Garcia, and Robyn Puckett. These three women were winners in the California Women's State Championship held in July of this year at Ojai Golf Resort.

The four of us traveled to Kettering, Ohio, a suburb of Dayton, to the NCR Golf Club. The 10th Annual USGA National Women's State Team Championship, held September 17-19, included teams from every state in the union and Washington D.C. and Puerto Rico. Over 150 women ranging in age from 12 to 66 participated. The 3-day event was a stroke play format. Except for the rain on the final day of play, a 50 minute suspension of play was called, the weather was beautiful. The course was hilly but had no water hazard. However, the deep, scary bunkers surrounding the exceedingly fast undulating greens made up for the absence of water hazards. The California Team played Hawaii and New York the first two days and Pennsylvania and Michigan during the final round. California didn't fare as well as we'd have liked, coming in 22nd overall. Lynne, Karen and Robyn played very well, but it's pretty hard to beat gross scores which were under par each day. The women from the state of New Jersey won the championship.

Some memories fade away in time. For me, this is a memory I'll never forget.

Here's picture of the California Women's State Team and me. L-R: Robyn Puckett, Betty Baran (team captain), Karen Garcia, and Lynne Cowan.

