

KENTUCKY GOLF HALL OF FAME

Don Smith



2014 Nomination

Kentucky Golf Hall of Fame

2014 Nomination Form

NOMINEE'S NAME

~~Smith~~ Smith Don _____
Last Name First Name Nickname (if applicable) Middle Initial

NOMINEE'S DATE OF BIRTH

Year Month Day

RESIDENCE

Years Kentucky Resident (minimum 5 years required) _____

Current Residence _____
Address Club Lane Louisville Ky 4
City State Zip

STATUS

- ☒ Amateur
☐ Professional
☐ Deceased (please provide date of death _____)

KEY AREAS (check all that are applicable)

- ☐ Playing Achievements
☒ Contribution/Promotion of the Game
☒ Contribution to Junior Golf
☐ Teaching of the game
☐ Golf Course Architecture
☐ Turf Grass Research
☐ Golf Course Management/Maintenance
☒ National Recognition

SUPPORTING MATERIALS

Required

- ✓ One page type written biography of nominee
- ✓ Two (2) Letters of Nomination

Suggested

- ✓ Newspaper articles
- ✓ Photographs

July 18, 2014

Kentucky Golf Hall of Fame Committee
Golf House Kentucky
1116 Elmore Just Drive
Louisville, Kentucky 40245

Dear Committee Members:

Having been on the Kentucky Golf Association Board for over twenty-five years now, I have developed an opinion of what kinds of skills and talents a nominee for the Kentucky Golf Hall of Fame should possess in order to be inducted into that prestigious group. Certainly those talented golfers who have worked hard on honing their skills and have excelled at playing the game should be members.

A second, and equally important group of folks are those who have made it possible for the talented players to demonstrate and improve their playing skills for the world to see. Those persons who give unselfishly of their time, talent, and resources to organize tournament events, to teach, to attend meetings of organizations governing the tournaments, to learn and administer the rules of golf, and to create opportunities for the talented and the not so talented to enjoy playing this great game of golf. Without tournament opportunities, how would the talented golfer showcase his or her talents? Without governing organizations, who would be able to conduct high level golf opportunities? Without many hours of work behind the scenes by giving, caring, and dedicated individuals, who would organize the programs of the governing bodies?

I also believe that whenever possible, a person who is worthy of induction into the Kentucky Golf Hall of Fame should be inducted during his or her lifetime so that person may be properly recognized for his or her accomplishments.

I am pleased to nominate Don Smith as an outstanding individual for consideration by the committee for induction into the Kentucky Golf Hall of Fame. Don Smith is a person who has served Kentucky Golf for many years in an unselfish and honorable manner.

In the fall of 1986 Don entered the Kentucky Senior Amateur at Summit Hills Country Club. At a dinner between rounds of the 36-hole event it was announced that plans were under way to form a Kentucky Senior Golf Association. John Owens, Fred Allen and Tom Musselman who were heading the effort asked for volunteers to serve on the initial board of directors. Don asked and was accepted and attended the first board meeting later that fall at Big Spring Country Club.

Don attended his first Kentucky Golf Association board meeting in 1989 as one of the two KSGA members selected to serve on that board. He continued in that position until becoming an emeritus member in 2011. He became the president of the KGA in 1993 and president of the KGA-PGA, Inc. in

1994. Prior to and following that he was president of the KSGA in 1992 and 1996. He was a KSGA board member from its founding in 1986 until the merger with the KGA in 2013. He was appointed to the USGA Senior Amateur Championship Committee in 1996 until retiring in 2007. As a member of that committee he was a rules official for two NCAA division I championships and 8 USGA Senior Amateur Championships.

Don was very active in the KSGA and participated in a majority of their events plus several Kentucky Opens and Kentucky Amateur championships. He qualified for the 1989 Kentucky Amateur at Danville Country Club but did not make the 36 hole cut. He volunteered to be a starter for the remainder of the tournament and this piqued his interest in the rules of golf and tournament administration. This would lead to attending 10 USGA/PGA Rules of Golf Seminars over the next several years. He was also the starter for the Ben Hogan tour in the two years the tournament was played in Elizabethtown. It was his first contact with professional rules officials and increased his interest in this part of the game.

In 1994 Don was presented with the J.W. Janes award by the Kentucky Golf Association in recognition of his contributions to amateur golf in Kentucky. In 2002, he was the recipient of the first President's Award from the Kentucky Section of the PGA of America.

Don and Fred Allen formed the Kentucky Senior Golf Foundation with the intention of making contributions to worthy charities through their 501-3c classification. The board of directors of the foundation made many contributions to charitable organizations such as the Ronald MacDonald House. Due to the great interest in junior golf the purpose and mission of the foundation was changed to providing assistance to junior golfers from Kentucky who had qualified for either the boys or girls USGA amateur championships. Since that change over forty worthy juniors have received up to \$1000 to assist them in the expenses necessary to compete on a national level.

Don got his start in the game of golf when his family moved to Anchorage, KY in 1941 and became members of Owl Creek Country Club. Shortly thereafter he was introduced to two gentlemen who became his mentors as he developed as a player and took a great interest in the sport. At age 13 he began caddying for Judge John Marshal, Jr. and his protégé, Harry (Buddy) Moorhead.

Judge Marshal was a multiple winner of the Kentucky State Amateur Championship, one of the founders of the Kentucky Golf Association, a member of the Kentucky Golf Hall of Fame, and a great student of the golf swing. His protégé, Buddy Moorhead, had won the Kentucky State High School Golf Championship and was recovering from tuberculosis at that time and one of the better amateur players in the state. They devoted a great deal of time in explaining the finer points of the game and the challenges of life to Don. Don caddied for Buddy in most of his major competitions against the better amateurs, Benny Owen, George Helm, Omer Doll, and Johnny Owens and experienced the feeling of good competitive golf. One of the highlights of his caddying career was to caddy for Buddy Moorhead in an exhibition match at the old Valley View Golf Club in New Albany. The foursome was made up of the host professional, Jimmy Scott, the Indiana Amateur Champion, Fred Wampler, Buddy Moorhead, the Kentucky Amateur Champion and Byron Nelson who was at the peak of his game at that time.

During his high school years, Don participated in the Kentucky State High School Championship for three years finishing as high as fifth as a senior in 1949. At that time in the spring of 1949 John Owens, who was captain of the University of Kentucky golf team, was developing a combination athletic/academic scholarship along with the coach at the university, Frank Atkins, the golf professional at Lexington's Picadome Golf Club. They were aware that Don had won the Jefferson county high school championship and after playing a round at Owl Creek with Don offered him the new scholarship. This scholarship was for one year and was for the huge amount of \$60 for each semester!

In the spring of 1950 he was a member of a freshman golf team, this was during the period that you could not participate on the varsity level until your sophomore year. They played a limited schedule against Transylvania, Centre and suffered a humiliating defeat by Lafayette High School with Gay Brewer, Jr. and John Y. Brown, Jr. who would later become team mates at UK.

At this time, John Owens had just won the SEC individual championship, the only Kentucky player to this day, and was advised by Bernie Shively, the athletic director that they were going to drop golf since it was a non-revenue sport. John begged and pleaded and Mr. Shively agreed to keep golf if John would be the coach. He did and that lasted for some seven years! This did provide some interesting circumstances since John was Don's big brother in Phi Delta Theta fraternity and also his golf coach.

For the next three years, Don played on the varsity golf team. Virtually all of the competition was at match play with the exception of the SEC Championship which was a stroke play event. He was able to compete against and with a number of excellent players who continued on to have fine careers as players and teachers such as Mike Souchak, Jim Flick, and Tommy Veach to mention a few. In his senior year, 1953, the UK golf team was made up of Gay Brewer, Jr., Ches Riddle, John Y. Brown, Jr. and Don Smith and had a very respectable record with Brewer nearly winning the SEC individual at Athens Georgia Country Club.

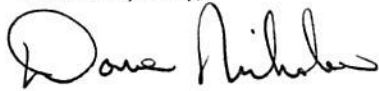
After his graduation from UK in 1953, Don entered the United States Air Force for three years serving the last two as a navigator on KC-97 tankers for air refueling. His last year in service was spent at Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas. This was a very new base and the commanding officer, Brig. Gen. Joe Preston, wanted a golf course on the base. So for the last two months or so of his time Don laid out the design for the course using aerial photographs, there was a reconnaissance wing on the base, and saw the initial construction before his separation from the Air Force. It is still in use today.

Don has been a member of Harmony Landing CC, now merged with Big Spring CC, since 1969. He served over 10 years as a member of the board of directors the majority of that time as greens chairman. Still an active player as long as the tees are short enough he has made 6 aces, three of them on the same hole at Harmony Landing.

Based on the premise that persons who have made an outstanding contribution to the organization and administration of tournament golf in this state should be members of the Kentucky Golf Hall of Fame, I believe that you will agree that Don Smith deserves a place in the Hall of Fame. He has certainly earned it. It is my hope that I have done an adequate job of representing how truly qualified this individual is. Please allow his record, his time, his hard work, and this accomplishments speak for themselves. If so, I

believe that you will see this man as thoroughly qualified for entry into the Kentucky Golf Hall of Fame. Please also consider other items that I have attached that further validate and accent the credentials of Don Smith.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave Nicholas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dave" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Nicholas".

Dave Nicholas

To: Kentucky Golf Hall of Fame Selection Committee
Re: Nomination for Don Smith

To whom it concerns:

Please accept this letter of recommendation for Don Smith, as you consider him for entry into the Kentucky Golf Hall of Fame.

Membership in the Hall of Fame should bring with it, a strong criteria for entry. The criteria should include someone who has given back to the game of golf, and someone who contributed to make the game better for those involved. Don Smith fits into this category, as someone who has served Kentucky Golf for many years. Don has served in various capacities involving tournament administration and rules, as a volunteer. Don has also served the Amateur and Senior Associations, as well as the joint KGA-PGA body, in its governance structure as a director and Officer of these associations.

The nature of serving in these capacities is that tough decisions needed to be made, both on the golf course, and in the board room. While all parties may not always agree on an outcome, Don always had what was best for the game at the forefront of his decision making. I have spent 25 years at Harmony Landing CC with Don Smith as a member, and I have served on the KGA-PGA Board with him. I have seen his ability to research a topic at hand, and render reasonable solutions for problems that faced the members and associations he served. No one gets a 100% acceptance of policies that are handed down, but Don always had researched, and queried his peers, to render the right decision that was best for the game.

I hope that you will seriously consider Don for your Hall of Fame selection. If giving back to the game we all love is a strong criteria for entry, and it certainly should be, Don should be an easy selection for the committee.

Feel free to contact me if you wish to discuss Mr. Smith's merits further.

Sincerely

Mike J Thomas
PGA Master Professional
Harmony Landing CC
Mthomas908@aol.com
502-228-8316

United States Golf Association
PO Box 708, 77 Liberty Corner Rd., Far Hills, NJ 07931-0708
T 908.234.2300 F 908.234.9687



June 25, 2014

Kentucky Golf Hall of Fame Committee
Attn: Erin Horn, PGA
Golf House Kentucky
1116 Elmore Just Drive
Louisville, KY 40245

Dear Committee,

I am writing to endorse the nomination of Don Smith for the Kentucky Golf Hall of Fame, and am happy to do so for in my view, perhaps no other individual was more instrumental in keeping the KGA-PGA, Inc. governance model intact during a very turbulent period in its history. He had the wisdom to realize that preservation of this unique and beneficial arrangement was larger and more important than any individual or issue, and possessed the strength to stand behind this conviction. I am confident others involved with KGA-PGA, Inc. governance at the time would attest to this.

There are many other reasons for Don's consideration, among them a lengthy and dedicated record of service as a leader for the Kentucky Golf Association, Kentucky Senior Golf Association and the game in general in Kentucky. I am sure many of these details have been provided by others, and if the Committee would like further insight, I am very happy to provide it.

I have an appreciation for the work that you do on behalf of the game in Kentucky, and send best wishes to each of you.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mark Hill", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Mark Hill
Senior Director, Competitions
KGA-PGA, Inc. Executive Director (2002-2012)

NOMINATION OF DON E. SMITH TO THE KENTUCKY GOLF HALL OF FAME

It is my pleasure to nominate Don E. Smith, a native of Kentucky, to be inducted into the Kentucky Golf Hall of Fame. Don E. Smith is eminently qualified and deserving of this honor. For several years, I had the privilege of working closely with Don for the Kentucky Senior Golf Association. (Henceforth the KSGA). During those years, I observed the great leadership team of Fred Allen and Don E. Smith as they guided the KSGA through its development into the wonderfully successful organization it is today. Through my first-hand observations, discussions and other input, I will attempt to submit a knowledgeable biography of Don E. Smith for your consideration.

As did many of aging golfers, Don started his golfing experiences as a caddy. His caddy experience was unique because he became the caddy for none other than John Marshall, Jr. As we know, John Marshall, Jr. became the first inductee into the Kentucky Golf Hall of Fame. Also, Judge Marshall, as he was called, became the first President of the Kentucky Golf Association. The Judge was a mentor to Don E. Smith in helping him learn the game of golf. He must have helped Don develop well because Don eventually got a golf scholarship at the University of Kentucky. When Don played for UK, it was a pretty good team as a couple of his teammates were Johnny Owens and Gay Brewer. Don has enjoyed golf as a low handicap player for many years. He has won several Sr. Club Championships at Harmony Landing. However, playing golf with some of the best only laid the groundwork for his many big contributions to golf in Kentucky.

In 1986, at the Ky. Sr. Amateur Championship held at Summit Hills, Don E. Smith became a member of the Board of Directors of the newly formed KSGA. He has continued to serve on this Board to present day. Fred Allen was President until 1991. Don became his Vice-President and served in that capacity 1989 until he became President of KSGA in 1992. In 1993, Don became President of the Kentucky Golf Association. Don was elected President of the KGA-PGA in 1994. It is a matter of record that Don E. Smith performed very well in each of these positions. Through his leadership, these organizations became more and more involved in supporting the development of Junior Golf throughout the state of Kentucky. This trend of full support of the KGA, PGA and KSGA for Junior Golf has continued until we now have a JUNIOR GOLF PROGRAM of which we have reason to be proud. In my observations, Don has always been an important person in the development of our JUNIOR GOLF PROGRAM.

In 1994 Don received the J.W. JANES AWARD for his contributions to amateur golf in Kentucky.

Don served as one of two senior representatives on the KGA Board of Directors from 1989 to 2002. He has served on many committees pertinent to golf in Kentucky. It is known, if the committee is for the betterment of golf in Kentucky, Don E. Smith will be willing to devote and find time to serve. Don takes special pride of the fact that he chaired the committees at his Club when they found their outstanding Golf Professional, Mike Thomas and their outstanding Greens Superintendent, Jay Charnes. As Chair of the Greens committee for his club, Don was involved in a number of modifications of the course to make it a more contemporary layout.

Don E. Smith is a person of integrity. He believes in doing things right and following the rules to a tee. He has been actively interested in the rules of golf for many years. He attended his first USGA-PGA rules of golf workshop at Hilton Head Island in 1991 and completed his seventh workshop in 2002. In 1996 Don started serving on the USGA Senior Championship Committee

as one of the committeemen for this area. He has participated as a Rules Official in six of the last seven tournaments. Also, he has been a starter in the last four events in various parts of the country. Don acted as a Rules Official at USGA run NCAA championship tournaments two times.

Don E. Smith was honored as a recipient of the first President's Award from the Kentucky section of the PGA of America for his untiring and distinguished service to golf in Kentucky. Many golfers throughout Kentucky admire Don E. Smith and would like to see him be inducted into the Kentucky Golf Hall of Fame.

Respectfully,

J. Harold Noland
J. Harold Noland

2003

THE
NATIONAL
COLLEGIATE
ATHLETIC
ASSOCIATION



presents this certificate to

Don E. Smith

in recognition of your officiating in the

1996

NCAA Division I

Men's Golf Championships

Cedric W. Dempsey

NCAA Executive Director

United States Golf Association

Golf House PO Box 708 Far Hills NJ 07931-0708
908 234-2300 Fax 908 234-9687



January 9, 1996

Mr. Don Smith
441 Club Lane
Louisville, KY 40207

Dear Mr. Smith:

Your name has been given to me as someone who loves the game of golf and has a strong desire to put something back into the game.

Therefore, I am pleased to invite you to serve on the Senior Amateur Championship Committee for 1996. As a member of this committee, your help with site selection and qualifying administration, plus attending the championship at least every two or three years, will make an important contribution to the game.

For your information, I enclose a pamphlet which describes USGA policies and the duties of various committees. As a member of the USGA family, however, your activities need not be limited exclusively to the work of this particular committee.

The USGA would receive high marks in looking after the game these past 100 years. It is up to all of us to keep this stewardship on track for the next 100!

I very much hope you will accept this appointment. Please return the enclosed card promptly so that the staff has the necessary personal data needed to include your name in the 1996 USGA Yearbook.

Sincerely,

Reg Murphy
President

RM:eh
Enclosure



Missy Crisp
Executive Committee



United States Golf Association
103 Horseshoe Rd., Mill Neck, NY 11765
T 516 922-4056 F 516 922-7822
www.usga.org

August 1, 2007

Mr. Don E. Smith
441 Club Lane
Louisville, KY 40207

Dear Don,

It is with great regret but at the same time respect that I accept your resignation from the Senior Amateur Championship Committee. Your service to the USGA over many many years is greatly appreciated. As you can appreciate we could not do many of the things we currently do, nor do them so well, without the help and dedication of individuals such as yourself.

I appreciate your help in identifying a replacement and you are correct that we will be making those appointments later this year or early in 2008.

We will miss you in Kansas in September but look forward to another wonderful championship at an outstanding venue.

With best wishes,

Missy

CHES
RIDDLE

DON SMITH

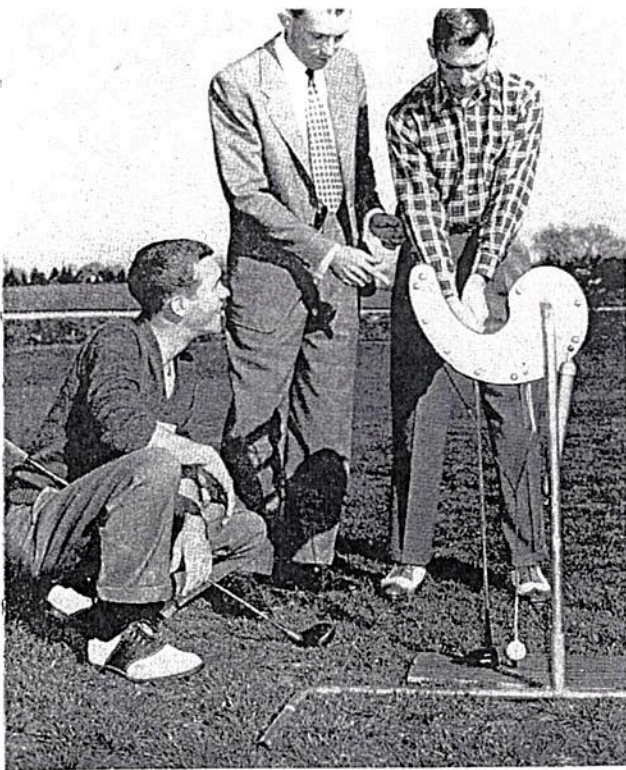


LOUIS FLOWERS

JOHN Y. BREWSTER, JR.

GAY BREWER, JR.

SPRING 1950 FRESHMAN GOLF VS. LAFAYETTE



Don Smith watches Coach Johnny Owens instruct Ches Riddle on how to use the golf driving machine.

After a brilliant start, the 1952 Wildcat golfers cooled off and ended the season with a record of seven wins, six losses, and two ties.

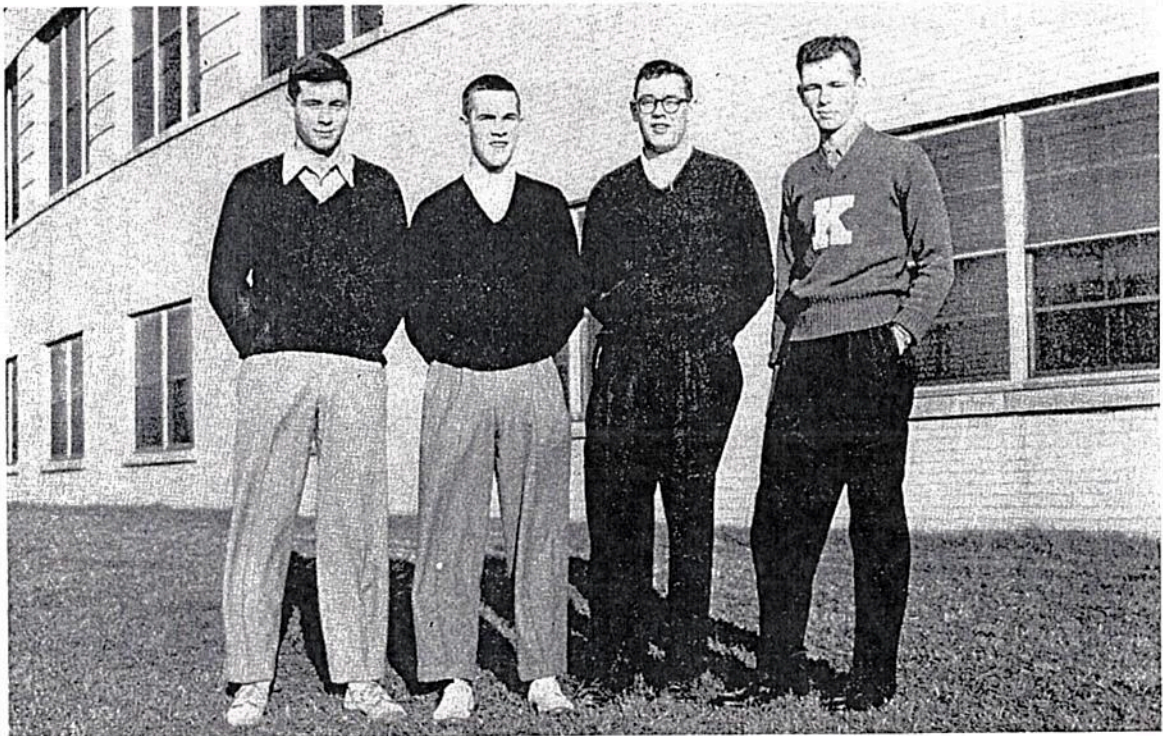
Coach Johnny Owens' linksmen won their first four matches handily, then ran into difficulty with ole man par and lost five in a row. They got back on the winning track for one match, then tied both ends of a triangular meet, won two more, then dropped the final match.

In the conference meet, Ches Riddle and Don Smith fired qualifying rounds but neither placed among the winners.

Charles Crabtree, Art Stoll, Bob Hardy, Bill Holten, and Jack Kloecker rounded out the group from which Owens most consistently selected his players.

It was a young Wildcat team with no seniors. Owens expressed the belief his team will be a strong contender for SEC honors in 1953.

Wildcat Golf Team

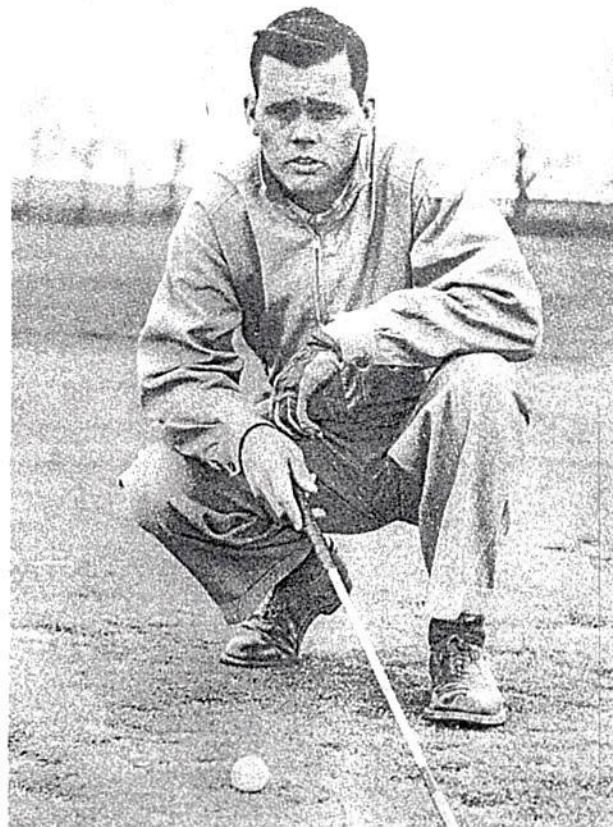


1952 WILDCAT GOLF TEAM

GOLF

One of its best golf teams in many campaigns represented Kentucky this spring. All the team members were veterans and this crop was bolstered by the addition of Gay Brewer, one of the state's best amateur golfers and well known among the amateur golfers in the south. Brewer has annexed many different titles and is considered the outstanding golfer of this area.

Capt. Ches Riddle also returned for another season of golf as a Wildcat. Charlie Crabtree and Don Smith, both lettermen, also added much to the power laden team.

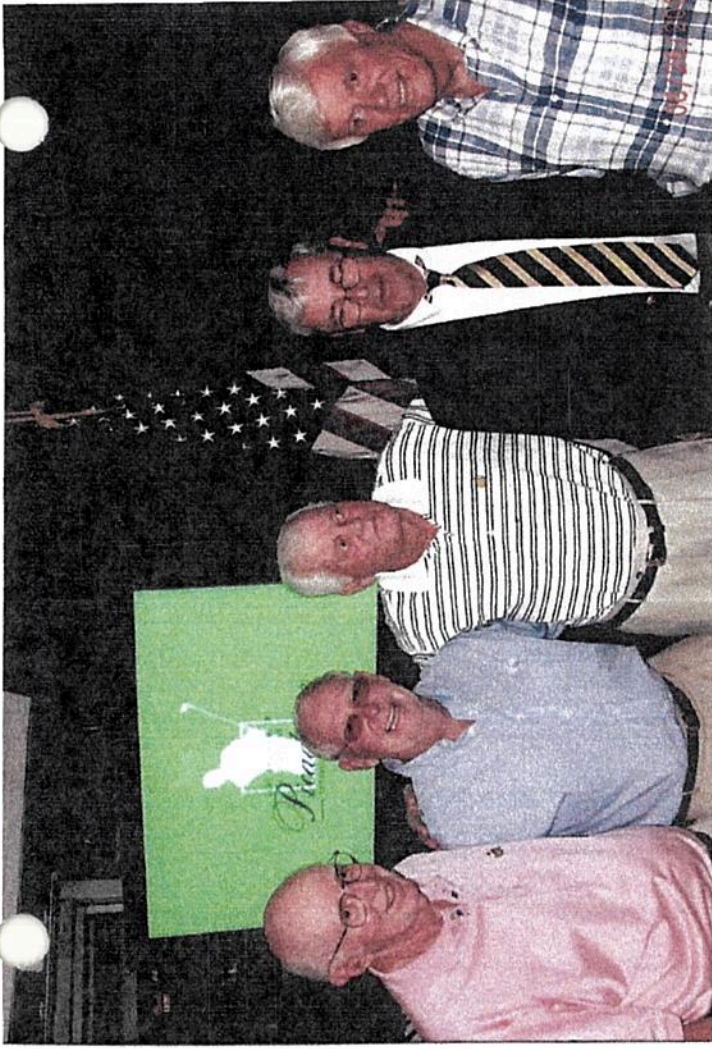


BREWER





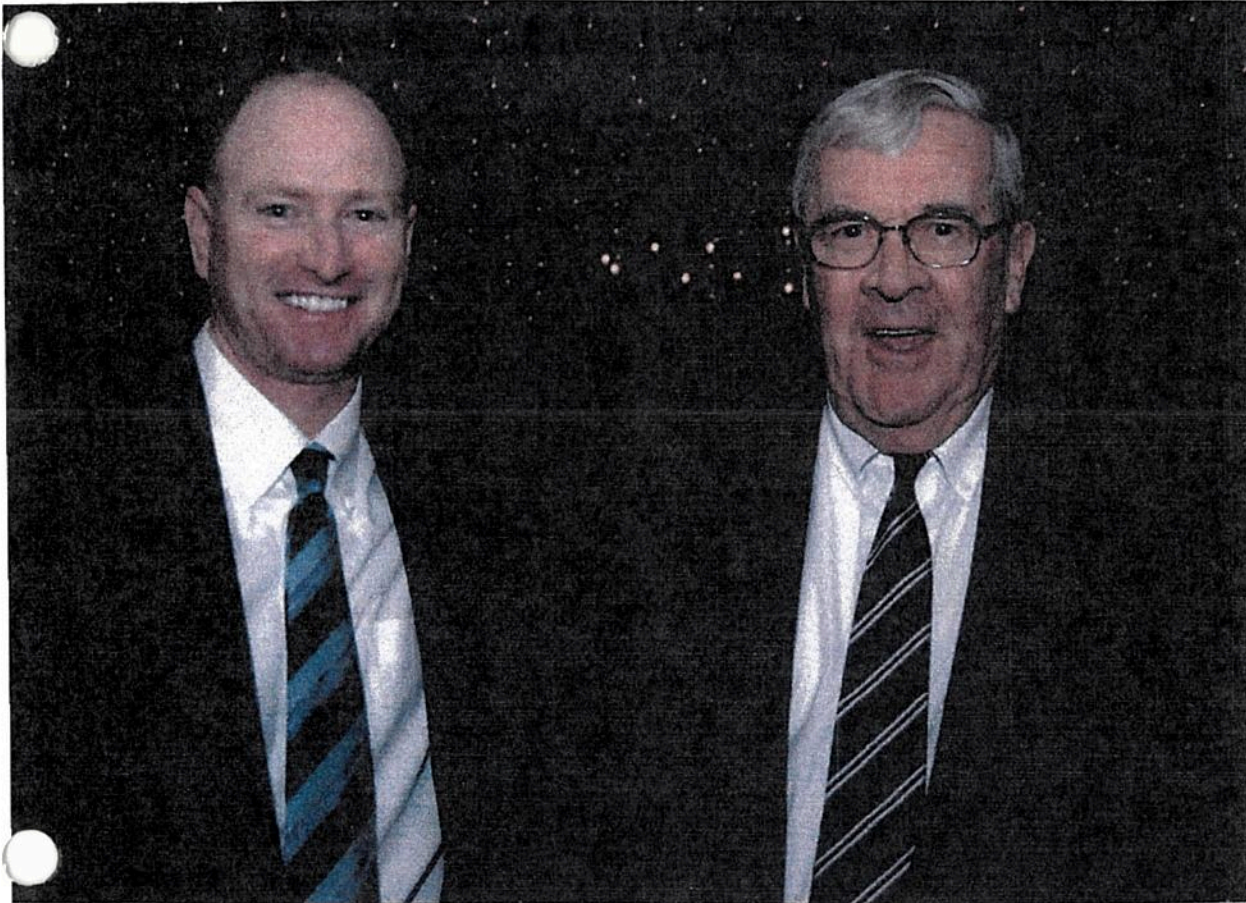
RECEIVING KPGA PRESIDENT'S AWARD



DEDICATION OF GAY BREWER @ READOME
JOHN OWENS, CHES RIDGLEY, GAY BREWER,
DON SMITH, JOHN Y. BROWN, JR.
1953 KY GOLF TEAM



UIC
GOLF TEAM
FUND
RAISER w/
GAY, ALVARO
DALE BARSTABLE



STEVE FLESCH
HALL OF FAME
DINNER