

PATTY BERG Receives Old Tom Morris Award

Floridian Patty Berg, a member of the World Golf Hall of Fame and a founder and charter member of the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA), will be the recipient of GCSAA's prestigious Old Tom Morris Award in 1986.

GCSAA's highest honor will be bestowed on the superstar of women's golf at the Banquet signaling the end of the 57th annual International Golf Course Conference and Show, January 27-February 4, in San Francisco.

The award is presented to individuals who, through a continuing, lifetime commitment to the game of golf, have helped to mold the welfare of the game in a manner and style exemplified by Old Tom Morris, the game's first superstar.

Berg, who helped found and became a charter member of the LPGA in 1950, remains to this day one of the most important ambassadors for women's golf. She was the LPGA's first president, in 1951, and was one of the four original inductees into the LPGA Hall of Fame.

Winner of the 1938 U.S. Amateur, Berg claimed over 80 titles after turning professional in 1940. Her 41 LPGA titles from 1950-1962 are bettered by only five players in the Tour's 35-year history. She twice accumulated six victories in a season (1953, 1956) to lead the Tour. Berg also led the WPGA Tour, the LPGA's predecessor, with three victories in both 1948 and 1949.

While winning tournaments, Berg was also the Tour money leader three times in four years (1954, 1956, 1957) and captured three of the first four Vare Trophy awards (1953, 1955, 1956).



Patty Berg

Patty's personal honors and achievements also are numerous. In addition to her induction in the LPGA Hall of Fame, she has been voted membership in the Women's Sports Hall of Fame as well as the World Golf Hall of Fame.

A three-time winner of the Associated Press Athlete of the Year Award, Berg was named the 1963 Bob Jones honoree presented by the USGA to recognize a person who emulates the sportsmanship of the award's namesake.

The National Golf Foundation has added Berg's name to its honor rolls on three occasions, voting her the Joe Graffis Award in 1975 and the Herb Graffis Award in 1981 in addition to naming her an NGF honorary consultant in 1983.

Berg also holds the 1975 Ben Hogan Award given annually by the Golf Writers Association of America. She has authored three books on golf and in 1976 became the first woman to receive the Humanitarian Sports Award from the United Cerebral Palsy Foundation.

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Finally, the LPGA established the Patty Berg Award in 1978 to be granted to a person for outstanding contributions to women's golf. Despite hip surgery in 1980, Berg continues to be active, promoting the game and working with children.

"One purpose of our coveted Old Tom Morris Award," said GCSAA President Eugene D. Baston, CGCS, "is to help identify golf course superintendents with the true heritage and traditional founding of the game. Patty Berg indeed has contributed immensely to our sport and industry. We honor Patty Berg as we present her with our award — and she in turn honors us by accepting it.

GCSAA established the Old Tom Morris Award in 1983. The first recipient was Arnold Palmer. Bob Hope was the second. In 1985, the honor went to former United States President Gerald Ford. ■

Dinah! Is There Anyone Finah!

To present the "Old Tom" Morris Award that is ... Dinah Shore (herself an accomplished golfer) has accepted the invitation from GCSAA to present Patty Berg with this prestigious and unique award at the closing banquet for the GCSAA's 1986 International Conference & Show in San Francisco, CA.

This will be the fourth time the GCSAA has presented the "Old Tom" Morris Award. It is presented to, in the words of The Golf Course Superintendent's Association of America, "That individual who, through a continuing, selfless commitment to the game of golf, has helped to further the welfare of the game in a manner and style exemplified by "Old Tom" Morris."

Patty Berg as this year's recipient will join a small group of the world's truly great golfers who have been given this international award. The first "Old Tom" Morris Award was presented to Arnold Daniel Palmer at the GCSAA's 1983 International Turfgrass Conference & Show in Atlanta, GA. Palmer in turn presented the award to Bob Hope at the closing banquet of the Las Vegas 1984 Conference. On that memorable night Hope re-marked, "I knew Arnie was here; I saw his tractor parked outside." President Gerald Ford was chosen to receive the third "Old Tom Morris Award in 1985, the presentation was made during the Washington, D.C. Conference & Show.

Patty Berg will become the fourth recipient of the "Old Tom" Morris award, while at the same time though, she will be a first. Patty will be the first woman to be so honored and there could be no finer lady than Dinah Shore to make this presentation.

Editor's Note' See related story on page 26. ■

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