

Mr. Putney left his mark on the GCN staff

Legendary Maine sportswriter and Golf Course News Contributing Editor Vern Putney passed away in December. On short notice, we published his obituary last month. The GCN staff has written the following addenda:

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When GCN launched in 1989, it was Vern Putney and me — a lick and a prayer, not necessarily in that order. He had spent 40 years covering golf and other sports, oftentimes more as a crusader than simply

a reporter. He gamely pushed for space on the sports pages for women's sports — especially female golfers and runners like Olympic gold medalist Joan Benoit Samuelson, a friend of his... because it was right. He started a semi-pro football team in Portland, Maine — yes, Portland, Maine... because it was right to have one. He started various sports halls of fame, including the Maine Golf Hall of Fame. And he guaranteed that every year a woman

and a superintendent, as well as the perfunctory male pro, would be installed... because it was right.

He operated a caddie program in his younger days, trying to instill the sense of etiquette and gamesmanship that he loved about golf... because it was right. Perhaps it was that quality of his that kept him fighting his way out of hospitals to make deadline appearances at GCN. He strongly felt it was right to have a publication that covered the industry side of golf. He'd tell the doctors:

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Mr. Allan MacCurrach

PGA TOUR AGRONOMIST MACCURRECH, 57

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Allan MacCurrach, 57, for 18 years the senior agronomist for the PGA Tour, died of massive heart failure on Jan. 14, while on assignment in Palm Springs, Calif.

The winner of the 1994 Distinguished Service Award from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, Mr. MacCurrach was a superintendent for 12 years before joining the Tour. He also was senior agronomist on the Nike Tour since its inception.

"Allan had a tremendous impact on the Tour for a number of years," said Cal Roth, director of golf course maintenance operations for PGA Tour Investments and its Tournament Players Clubs (TPC). "I've looked to Allan over the last 13 years for a lot of help and support due to his background and knowledge. That transcends the whole industry. He knew so many people in the business."

"Allan was a leading agronomist in tournament golf and always had the respect of all the golf course superintendents he worked with, week-in and week-out," said Terry Buchen, who worked with Mr. MacCurrach in 1979 and 1980. "He was one of the great guys and true gentlemen in the business."

An Ipswich, Mass., native who grew up in nearby Hamilton, Mr. MacCurrach earned an associate degree in 1962 from the University of Massachusetts' Stockbridge School of Agriculture after earning an associate degree from Burdette College in Boston. He was a superintendent at Valley Country Club in West Warwick, R.I., and Chevy Chase (Md.) Country Club before joining the PGA Tour as its first agronomist in 1974. In 1984 he left the Tour to work with Golden Bear, Inc., before returning in 1988.

Mr. MacCurrach was one of the first in the country to earn the status of certified golf course superintendent.

He leaves a wife, Carol; daughter, Jennifer MacCurrach, a golf professional; son, Allan III; two grandchildren; a brother, Bruce; and a sister, Ann Bloom.

Donations in Mr. MacCurrach's behalf can be made to the Mike Richards Memorial Scholarship Foundation for agronomy turf students, 1009 Ruth Ave., Jacksonville Beach, Fla. 32250.



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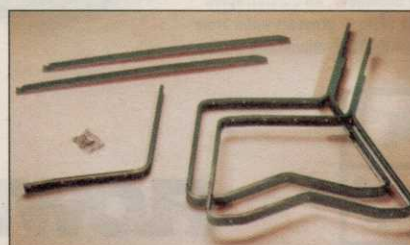
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