GENE SARAZEN RECEIVES OLD TOM MORRIS AWARD

Legendary golfer Gene Sarazen has been selected to receive the Old Tom Morris Award from the golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA). Sarazen is the sixth recipient of the award, one of golf's most prestigious.

The award will be presented to Sarazen on February 8, 1988 at the banquet closing GCSAA's 59th International Golf Course Conference and Show, which begins February 1 in Houston.

The announcement was made October 9 during the GCSAA Board of Directors fall meeting in Houston.

GCSAA President Donald E. Hearn, CGCS, said, "All golf course superintendents can be proud of Sarazen's selection for this most prestigious award. Mr. Sarazen's accomplishments and contributions to the game are numerous and outstanding."

Sarazen joins Arnold Palmer, Bob Hope, Gerald Ford, Patty Berg and Robert Trent Jones, Sr. as recipients of the coveted honor.

"Old Tom contributed to the game through a continuing, selfless commitment, and Mr. Sarazen has demonstrated that same dedication and inspiration throughout his career," Hearn said. "The game is better because of Gene Sarazen."

Sarazen was the first of only four men to win all four of golf's major events. In addition to being the 1935 Masters Champion and the 1932 British Open victor, Sarazen won the US Open twice and the PGA Championship three times.

Additionally, he was the first advisory staff member for a major sporting goods company, a relationship that has been in force since 1923. Since his championship playing days, he also has done public

relations work for various companies. Sarazen's development of the sand wedge is considered to be one of the greatest contributions to the game.

The 85-year old Sarazen continues to be actively involved in promoting golf by sponsoring the Gene Sarazen Jun Classic in Japan and working with the Sarazen Scholars at Siena College.

One of golf's first greats, Old Tom Morris was a greenkeeper, golf professional, club and ball maker, golf course architect and accomplished player who won four British Open championships between 1861 and 1867. At the Royal and Ancient, St. Andrews, Scotland, Old Tom

gained worldwide fame, boosting the popularity of golf throughout the British Isles and in many other parts of the world.

An international golf audience, including representatives of every major golf association, will be on hand for the 1988 banquet ceremonies. The banquet attendance is expected to exceed 2,000.

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