

Michigan Golf Hall of Fame – Class of 2006

By Jack Berry

The 2006 class of the Michigan Golf Hall of Fame raised hall membership to 74 and covered a wide spectrum of the game, from the professional tour to the highest rank of amateur golf to a dedicated club professional and an administrator and a woman trailblazer.

The inductees at the May 21 dinner at Indianwood Golf and Country Club in Lake Orion were Ray Bolo, Tom Chisholm, John Grace, John Morse and Jeanne Myers.

Myers was the fifth inductee and left the large audience in the club's Great Hall leaving with laughs and smiles as she related stories of her earliest times as a rules official.

"The time is 99 percent boredom and 1 percent fear," said Myers who scored a 97 in the first 3-1/2 hour rules examination.

She was one of the first women to officiate a men's tournament and when she got a radio call for a decision she headed in her golf cart to the spot and when the players saw her coming "He said blankety-blank they sent me a blankety-blank woman," Myers recalled,

laughing now.

"He wanted relief," she said. "I looked, said 'No relief,' and got back in the cart and got out of there."

Myers since has been a Rules official in more than 60 national championships including the men's and women's U.S. Opens and she has worked numerous Michigan PGA and Golf Association of Michigan tournaments.

"Now I'm known as Mean Jeanne," she said, laughing.

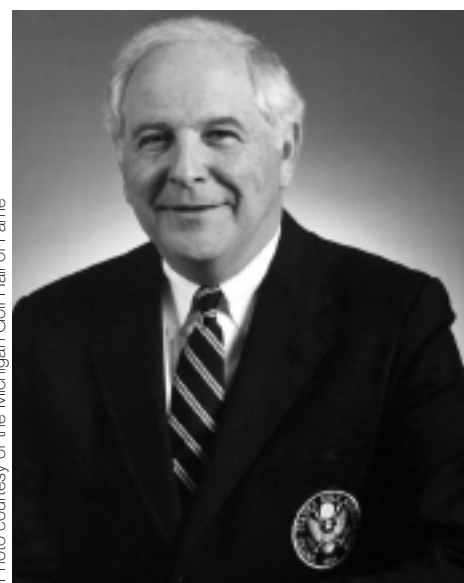
A former women's champion at Oakland Hills, Myers is the first woman to become president of the GAM and was on the USGA Women's Committee for 13 years, chairing it for two years. She will captain the American team in the World Amateur Championship in South Africa this fall and was with the winning American Curtis Cup team in England in 2004.

Myers authored the USGA's Equitable Stroke Control procedure and helped set up the Slope course rating system. She has rated more than 100 Michigan courses.



Jeanne Myers

Photo courtesy of the Michigan Golf Hall of Fame



Tom Chisholm

Photo courtesy of the Michigan Golf Hall of Fame

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Chisholm also is a past GAM president who has devoted years of volunteer service on USGA and GAM committees and was a member of the USGA Executive Committee. He has been especially dedicated to working with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America to combat criticism that golf courses jeopardize the environment. He worked on funding turfgrass research at Michigan State University and MSU now has the largest turfgrass information file in the world.

Chisholm served on both the USGA Green Committee (as chairman) and the Museum and Library Committee.

The Indianwood ceremony was something of a homecoming for Bolo who was an assistant professional at the club before being appointed professional at Western where he served 37 years, a length of service at one club rarely matched. Bolo was known for fostering junior golf at the historic Donald Ross-designed course. He now lives in South Carolina.

While Bolo tended to golf's home fires, Grace and Morse played across the nation and across the oceans after outstanding careers in Michigan. Both won the Michigan Amateur, Grace in 1971 and Morse in 1978.

Grace was born in Texas but moved to Michigan when he was 12 and remained here for 14 years until returning to Texas. While in Michigan he won the GAM Championship three times, the Horton Smith and Michigan Medal Play. Grace was a

member of the University of Texas golf team, always one of the nation's best, and his national record as an amateur includes playing in 35 USGA championships, from junior to mid-amateur and senior topped by reaching the final of the 1974 Amateur championship where he lost to Jerry Pate, 2-1.

In 1975 Grace played on the winning U.S. Walker Cup team on the Old Course at St. Andrews with Pate, Jay Haas, Craig Stadler, Curtis Strange, George Burns, Bill Campbell, Vinny Giles, Gary Koch and Dick Siderowf.

Grace has won the Texas Open and Senior Open, turned professional as a senior and played four years on the European Senior Tour, winning its championship in 2000. He applied last year for reinstatement as an amateur.

Morse grew up in Marshall, went to the University of Michigan, won the Big Ten championship in 1980 and was an All-American. He was unsuccessful in a bid for PGA Tour card so he went to Asia, Australia and Europe. He won the Australian Open and Australian Masters against fields that included Greg Norman, Ian Baker-Finch and Craig Parry, won the Air New Zealand Open and after two years playing in Europe, returned to the U.S. and joined the Nike Tour and won the New England Classic.

His Nike Tour performance propelled him to the PGA Tour and victory in the Hawaiian Open and he was in the hunt for the 1996 U.S. Open and finished fourth at Oakland Hills. Morse returned to hometown Marshall

and served as professional at the club where he grew up, Marshall Country Club, from 1999-2002. Now his eye is on getting ready for the Champions Tour. **MG**



Photo courtesy of the Michigan Golf Hall of Fame

Ray Bolo



Photo courtesy of the Michigan Golf Hall of Fame

John Grace