

NEWS

the Memorial Tournament™

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LPGA GREAT JUDY RANKIN SELECTED 2019 MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT HONOREE

Dublin, Ohio – Officials of the Memorial Tournament presented by Nationwide announced today that the Captains Club has selected LPGA legend and broadcasting pioneer Judy Rankin as the Honoree for the 44th Memorial Tournament, scheduled for May 27-June 2, 2019.

Rankin amassed 26 wins on the LPGA Tour, including six in 1976, before becoming the first female golf broadcaster in 1984, when she was hired by ABC Sports.

Born Judy Torluemke on February 18, 1945 in St. Louis, Mo., Rankin began playing golf at the age of 6 under the tutelage of her father Paul, an avid golfer. She won the Missouri Amateur at age 14, and the following year at the 1960 U.S. Women's Open she became the youngest player to win low amateur honors, when she tied for 24th at Worcester Country Club in Worcester, Mass., at age 15.

Rankin turned professional in 1962 at age 17 but needed six years before capturing her first LPGA victory in 1968 at the Corpus Christi Open. Her most successful season was 1976, when she won six tournaments and set a LPGA season earnings record of \$150,724 on her way to becoming the first LPGA player to exceed \$100,000 in season earnings. She was the LPGA's Rolex Player of the Year in 1976 and '77, and won the Vare Trophy for lowest scoring average in 1973, 1976 and 1977. Also in 1977, Rankin set an LPGA record with 25 top-10 finishes, a record that still stands.

Judy married Walter "Yippy" Rankin in 1967 and together they had one son, Walter Jr., born in 1968. Yippy died in 2012 of throat cancer.

Rankin finished runner-up in four major championships but won two events that later were designated as majors. She captured the 1976 Colgate Dinah Shore Winner's Circle, known today as the ANA Inspiration, and the 1977 Peter Jackson Classic, which was an LPGA major named the Du Maurier Classic from 1979-2000 (It is now the Canadian Pacific Women's Open.).

Rankin's last victory came in the 1979 WUI Classic. Ongoing back problems forced Rankin to retire in 1983. She captained the United States to consecutive victories in the Solheim Cup in 1996 and '98, the latter held at Muirfield Village Golf Club, and considers that the highlight of her career.

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Following her remarkable career on the golf course, Rankin became arguably the most successful and respected female TV golf analyst, first for ABC Sports and continuing today as analyst with the Golf Channel and ESPN. She took a brief leave of absence in 2006 after being diagnosed with breast cancer.

In 1999, Rankin was awarded the Patty Berg Award by the LPGA and the Richardson Award by the Golf Writers Association of America for outstanding service to the game of golf. In 2002, the USGA recognized Rankin with its most prestigious distinction, the Bob Jones Award, for distinguished sportsmanship in golf.

A member of the Memorial Tournament's Captains Club, Rankin resides in Midland, Texas. She has three grandchildren.

LPGA WINS: 26

- 1968: Corpus Christi Civitan Open
- 1970: George Washington Golf Classic, Springfield Jaycee Open, Lincoln-Mercury Open
- 1971: Quality-First Classic
- 1972: Lady Eve Open, Heritage Village Open
- 1973: American Defender-Raleigh Classic, Lady Carling Open, Pabst Ladies Classic, GAC Classic
- 1974: Baltimore Classic
- 1975: National Jewish Hospital Open
- 1976: Burdines Invitational, Colgate-Dinah Shore Winner's Circle, Karsten-PING Open, Babe Zaharias Invitational, Borden Classic, Colgate-Hong Kong Open
- 1977: Orange Blossom Classic, Bent Tree Classic, Mayflower Classic, Peter Jackson Classic, Colgate European Women's Open
- 1978: WUI Classic
- 1979: WUI Classic

ADDITIONAL WINS: 4

- 1959: Missouri Amateur
- 1961: Missouri Amateur
- 1974: Colgate European Open
- 1977: LPGA National Team Championship

SOLHEIM CUP APPEARANCES: 2

- Captain: 1996, 1998

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AWARDS & HONORS

- Vare Trophy: 1973, 1976, 1977
- Player of the Year: 1976, 1977
- LPGA leading money winner: 1976, 1977
- Seagram's Seven Crowns of Sports Award: 1967
- Texas Golf Hall of Fame: 1987
- Collegiate Golf Hall of Fame: 1998
- Texas Sports Hall of Fame: 1999
- PGA of America First Lady of Golf Award: 1999
- Patty Berg Award: 1999
- Texas Women's Hall of Fame: 2000
- Sports Academy's Distinguished Service Award: 2000
- Dave Marr Memorial Award: 2001
- USGA's Bob Jones Award: 2002
- Ben Hogan Award: 2007
- Linc Werden Golf Journalism Award: 2008
- Old Tom Morris Award: 2010

About the Memorial Tournament presented by Nationwide

The Memorial Tournament presented by Nationwide is held annually at Muirfield Village Golf Club in Dublin, Ohio, a suburb of Columbus. The Tournament, founded and hosted by Jack Nicklaus, is conducted each year with three goals in mind: to honor the memory of individuals living and deceased who have distinguished themselves in the game of golf; to showcase the world's best golfers competing on one of the most challenging venues in the world for the enjoyment of spectators; and to benefit many Greater Columbus Charities in alliance with the Nicklaus Children's Healthcare Foundation, Nationwide Children's Hospital and numerous other local organizations. For more information, visit www.thememorialtournament.com or call 614-889-6700.

About Nationwide

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