

1980

Thomas C. Place

Class of 1949

As director of information for the PGA Tour for more than 20 years, Tom Place was a vital man behind the scenes at an average of 38 golf tournaments a year. He supervised the media operations, providing upgraded information on all the players, conducting daily interviews, and overseeing the rapid growth of both the print and electronic media. After retiring from full-time traveling on tour in 1992, he served for five years as press officer for the World Cup of Golf.

Place was the sports editor of Grove City College's *Collegian*. After graduation in 1949, he became the sports editor of the *Oil City Derrick* for three years. He then moved on to the sports staffs of the *Cleveland News* and the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*.

He joined the PGA Tour staff in the fall of 1971 and played a leading role in elevating professional golf tournaments into major events in the sports world. He also served on the board of directors for President Gerald R. Ford's Pro-Celebrity Golf Invitational in Vail, Colo., for 19 years. He was the editorial director for the President's golf magazine during that time and also served in the same capacity for five years for the Jerry Ford Celebrity Ski Classic.

Place received the College's Athletic Heritage Award in 2010, the Jack Nicklaus Memorial Tournament Lifetime Achievement Award for journalism in 2009, and special commendations from the United States Golf Association and golf journalist associations of Europe and Japan. In 1964, he received the Harold Hirsch award as the outstanding ski writer in the nation.

