



Distinguished Service Award

A Portrait *of* Distinction

John Baldwin has made his mark on Met Area golf as both an exceptional player and a tireless volunteer | BY JOHN STEINBREder

IT IS NOT AN EXAGGERATION TO say that 60-year-old John C. Baldwin has had two golfing lives, both of them extraordinary. One has been as a player good enough to earn his PGA Tour card shortly after finishing college and then to excel as an amateur when he decided that life on the professional circuit was not for him. The other has been as a volunteer, a role in which the Brooklyn native has held a number of important posts within golf, none more significant than president of the Metropolitan Golf Association from 1993–94. In fact, golf insiders would have a hard time finding many people who have done more for the game in this region, and that is why Baldwin is receiving the MGA's highest honor this year, the Distinguished Service Award.

"There are lots of players in this area who are deeply involved in golf as volunteers, and lots of volunteers are good players," says Jay Mottola, Executive Director of the MGA. "But John Baldwin is that unique combination of volunteer and player who not only serves but also leads. And the fact that he has been able to devote so much time and effort to the game, and to the MGA and its Foundation, is really very special."

It is as a player that Baldwin, who plays out of The Meadow Brook Club on



Long Island, will always be best known. After all, he won two Met Amateur championships, first in 1967 and, remarkably, once again 23 years later, as well as two consecutive MGA Player of the Year titles in 1990 and '91. He has also won the Ike Championship and the Travis Invitational as well as the New York State Amateur

and Mid-Amateur. Other wins over his career include four Long Island Amateurs and the Richardson Memorial.

He's done pretty well outside the Met Area as well, and in 1992 captured perhaps his biggest event winning the British Senior Open Amateur in England.

What is especially noteworthy is that Baldwin not only did all that while building a successful business career—much of it spent at First Boston Securities, where he rose to become national sales manager of municipal securities—but also as a tireless worker for the MGA. He joined the Association's Junior Committee in 1984 and within three years was elected Treasurer. He remained involved after his stint as president, becoming a key player in the formation of the MGA Foundation, which serves as the impetus for the develop-

ment of many innovative area programs, such as GOLFWORKS and The First Tee. He still serves with Lowell Schulman as head of the Foundation's ongoing Capital Campaign. In addition, Baldwin has sat on the boards of the Long Island Caddie Scholarship Fund and the Long Island Golf Association and was a member of the United States Golf Association's Mid Amateur Committee.

"Obviously, this is a very proud moment for me, especially when I look at the people who have won this award over the years," says Baldwin. "I have always respected those who have donated their time to the game, and personally I have always found it quite rewarding and something I happily

made a priority. Golf is that kind of game, the kind that makes you want to give something back to it."

The Distinguished Service Award simply affirms that Baldwin gave back far more than most and deserves to be in the company of its long list of distinguished winners. ■