



"As a competitor, he was always a gentleman and will always be remembered for his sportsmanship and the example he set for fellow competitors and young players."

- Marty Connelly



Jerry Courville Jr.

MGA Jerry Courville Sr. Player of the Year Award

From the beginning, 1997 promised to be a special year for Jerry Courville Jr. of Shorehaven GC. He was to be named to the 1997 Walker Cup team and the Matches were being hosted by Quaker Ridge Golf Club in Scarsdale, NY, a course which Courville liked and had played many times. After a disappointing loss to the Great Britain & Ireland team at Royal Porthcawl in 1995 he relished the opportunity to once again represent his country and reclaim the coveted trophy right in his own backyard.

Coincidentally, because of his Walker Cup commitments, Courville had decided to curtail some of his playing schedule this season, especially around the time of the Matches in August. But all that changed in June when Courville ran away with the 1997 Ike Championship (his third) at the Meadow Brook Club. At the Awards ceremony, MGA president Marty Connelly announced that the MGA's Player of the Year Award was being permanently renamed for Jerry's father, the late

Jerry Courville Sr., a six-time winner of the Ike, who passed away last November. Then and there Courville decided he wanted to be the first recipient of the re-named Award and he adjusted his playing schedule to fit in one more event, the Met Amateur.

From then on Jerry played like a man on a mission, and by August, before he ever took a swing in the Walker Cup competition, he had practically locked up the top spot in the standings. His outstanding play throughout the season included three victories — the Ike, the Met Amateur and the Boff Invitational — top ten finishes in the Hochster, New York City Amateur, Northeast Amateur and Mid-Atlantic Amateur and a semifinal finish in the U.S. Mid-Amateur, a title he won in 1995. Courville accumulated a total of 1353 points for the season, and the second highest total ever. Coincidentally, he also owns the record of 1702 points set in 1995 when he first won this award.

This year's honor will be different though. Jerry Courville Jr. will be the first recipient of the MGA's Jerry Courville Sr. Player of the Year Award, a touching tribute to the man who won more MGA titles than any other player in history. Courville Jr. also has the added satisfaction this year of going 3 & 0 in his Walker Cup matches en route to a resounding victory by the American team.

Joining Courville on the Player of the Year Honor Roll this year were two other players who compiled remarkable seasons. They include Wykagyl's Greg Rohlf who won the Westchester and New York State Amateurs and finished second with 908 points, and Ken Bakst of Atlantic/Sunningdale who recorded a spectacular victory in the 1997 U.S. Mid-Amateur and finished in third place with 898 points. Bakst joins Courville and Jeff Thomas as the third Met Area player in five years to hold that national title.

Other top players on the 1997 Honor Roll include Jon Doppelt of Fresh Meadow, the 1997 Long Island Amateur Champion, collegian Paul Dickinson of Montauk Downs who successfully defended his MGA/MetLife Public Links title, three-time MGA Player of the Year Jeff Thomas of Plainfield West, two-time Met Amateur semi-finalist J.J. Henry of Patterson and 1997 New York City Amateur champion and Met Amateur finalist, John Lewis Jr. of Metedeconk. Rounding out the list is 1997 New Jersey Amateur champion Jim Kilduff of Plainfield West and Malcolm Smith of Nassau Players.

Jerry Courville Sr. played and respected this game like few other men in Met Area history. He was a fine example of what amateur golf is, and should be, all about. We are proud to name this Award for him and hope that each player whose name appears on this Honor Roll will respect his memory by helping to carry on the great traditions of the game. We know its first recipient will.

PAST WINNERS

1976-	Richard Siderowf
1977-	Jimmy Dee
1978-	Jimmy Dee
1979-	George Zahringer III
1980-	George Zahringer III
1981-	H.P. Van Ingen Jr.
1982-	George Zahringer III
1983-	Jonas Saxton
1984-	Jonas Saxton
	George Zahringer III
1985-	Mark Traumer
1986-	George Zahringer III
1987-	George Zahringer III
1988-	Ralph Howe III
1989-	George Zahringer III
1990-	John Baldwin
1991-	John Baldwin
1992-	George Zahringer III
1993-	Jeff Thomas
1994-	Jeff Thomas
1995-	Jerry Courville Jr.
1996-	Jeff Thomas

*Player of
the Year*

1997 Metropolitan Golf Association Jerry Courville Sr. Player of the Year Honor Roll

1.	Jerry Courville Jr., <i>Shorehaven</i>	1353
2.	Greg Rohlf, <i>Wykagyl</i>	908
3.	Ken Bakst, <i>Sunningdale</i>	898
4.	Jon Doppelt, <i>Fresh Meadow</i>	627
5.	Paul Dickinson, <i>Montauk Downs</i>	517
6.	Jeff Thomas, <i>Plainfield West</i>	515
7.	J.J. Henry, <i>Patterson</i>	500
8.	John Lewis Jr., <i>Metedeconk National</i>	487
9.	James Kilduff, <i>Plainfield West</i>	445
10.	Malcolm Smith, <i>Nassau Players</i>	410