

Pat Browne Jr.

Golfer

Inducted 2008

Pat attended Jesuit High School in New Orleans, Louisiana, where he was born and raised. A captain of the basketball team and two-year letterman in baseball, Pat received numerous accolades while at Jesuit, including All State honors and election to the American Legion All Star Team, where he hit a league-leading batting average of .484.

After graduating in 1950, Pat continued his athletic success at Tulane University, where he lettered three times in both golf and basketball and was named Captain of each team for two years. During his senior year, Pat set the single-game scoring record for Tulane Basketball. Upon receiving his Law Degree from Tulane in 1956, he practiced law for eighteen years in New Orleans, before becoming President and C.E.O of Hibernia Homestead Bank, an office which he held for thirty years. He is presently the Chairman of the Board.

In 1966, Pat lost his sight and sustained multiple injuries as a result of an automobile accident. After a long recovery process, he was introduced to the idea of blind golf by his close friend, Henry Sarpy. A 2-handicap prior to his accident, Pat's return to golf proved to be a difficult transition, but after a few years of struggles, he eventually won his first USBGA National Championship with Henry as his coach in 1975. Thereafter, beginning in 1978, Pat and his coach, Gerry Barousse, won the USBGA National Championship 20 consecutive years. On two other occasions, Pat won the USBGA National Championship, one of which was with David Clark as his coach, and, most recently in 2005, with his son Patrick at his side.

At the Ken Venturi Guiding Eyes Golf Classic which has been referred to as the "Masters of Blind Golf" due to its invitational nature, Pat and multiple coaches have been the champion 18 times, 16 years consecutively. The most recent of these victories took place in 2007, with his son Patrick as his coach. In his blind golf career, Pat, through the aid of many dear coaches, has 65 blind golf victories around the

world. Pat recorded the lowest four consecutive rounds ever by a blind golfer, shooting rounds of 75, 74, 79, and 75 at Mission Hills Golf Club in Palm Springs, California. He and Gerry Barousse shot 85 at St. Andrews and 80 at Pinehurst, as well as recording the lowest ever nine holes of competitive blind golf, shooting an even par 36 on the back nine of the USBGA National Championship in Greensboro, North Carolina.

In 1990, Pat and Gerry played a 9-hole exhibition match with two-time U.S. Open Champion, Payne Stewart, in which Payne blindfolded himself for the entire match and played with the aid of a coach. Payne shot 62 and Pat and Gerry managed to shoot 42.

Pat has been elected to the Tulane University Athletic Hall of Fame, the Sugar Bowl Athletic Hall of Fame and the Louisiana State Sports Hall of Fame.

In 1988, the United States Golf Writers Association presented Pat with the Ben Hogan Award in Augusta, Georgia during the Masters. This award is presented to a golfer who has overcome great adversity. In 2007, New York Metropolitan Golf Writers Association presented Pat with the Mary Bea Porter Award, which “recognizes an individual in golf who, “through a heroic or humanitarian act, saves or better the lives of others.” Pat is father to three daughters and one son, and has seven grandchildren. He lives in New Orleans with his wife, Sherry.

The United States Blind Golf Association is proud to recognize and induct Pat Browne, Jr. into its 2008 class of the Hall of Fame.