

By Matt Levins
The Hawk Eye

Judy McCarty was pursuing a degree to become a physical education teacher at Iowa Wesleyan College.

Golf was the furthest thing from her mind. She had never picked up a golf club before, let alone tried to play a round.

But one of her assignments at the Mount Pleasant school was to teach a class in golf. McCarty went to the library and read up on the sport.

Little did she know, both golf and the library would become big parts of her life.

McCarty, who spent 35 years as a media specialist at Fort Madison High School before retiring in 2000, will receive the George Turner Distinguished Service Award from the Iowa Golf Association for her years of service to the game of golf, both as a player and a volunteer. The ceremony is set for 6 p.m. today at Elmwood County Club in Marshalltown.

McCarty, a member of Burlington Golf Club who now spends her winters in Florida golfing, dedicated much of her life to a sport she knew little about until taking that course back at Iowa Wesleyan.

Now, she is being recognized for a lifetime of service and dedication.

"I think it's a great honor. It's fun to be recognized for all those years of hard work," McCarty said. "It was work, but it was all for the love of the game. It was really just spreading that love for the game to more people and stuff like that."

McCarty started playing golf at Spring Lake Golf Club in Fort Madison, then switched to Sheaffer Memorial Golf Course in Fort Madison. It was there that she met and became good friends with Joan and Emil Roewert. Emil Roewert was the professional at Sheaffer for years, and his wife, Joan, took McCarty to tournaments all over the state.

"Joan liked to play in a lot of tournaments, so I would go with her to a lot of the tournaments all over the state," McCarty said. "That's how I met Jill (Blackwood). We played in the district team tournament and we became good friends. Then after we retired we started going to a lot of national tournaments. One of my best memories was getting to play Pinehust National Golf Course. I never got to play No. 2, but we played Nos. 3, 4 and 5. But my best memory is just all the friends I made all over the state through golf."