



## They put Indiana on the golf map

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Written by  
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In the world of golf, Indiana's Pete and Alice Dye are a championship team.

Pete Dye, now 85, is considered the best golf course architect of his generation. In the 1960s, his design of the Crooked Stick Golf Club in Carmel, where the couple still have a home, helped launch his career.

The course, just north of Indianapolis, also put Indiana on the golf map, attracting major tournaments, including the 1991 PGA and the U.S. Seniors Open two years ago. The Dyes went on to design tournament-level courses all over the world, including the Caesarea Golf and Country Club in Israel.

"I keep going back and looking at Crooked Stick and wondering how I ever came up with it so early in the game," he once said. "I'm absolutely amazed I ever put it together."

Dye's designs have been so important to the sport that he's been inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame. Yet, the Dyes have never forgotten their Indiana roots.

That in part is why Methodist Sports Medicine Foundation will recognize the Dyes with a worthy honor -- a lifetime achievement award -- next week.

Pete and Alice were championship golfers before they began to build courses. Alice Dye dominated women's tournaments in the state in the 1960s, as well as national honors. Pete won the state amateur in 1958 and competed in national tournaments.

Both Dyes might have made a living on the pro tours, but they stuck with the amateur tradition.

A successful insurance businessman, Dye enjoyed playing golf where the game was invented, in Scotland. There he played top courses such as St. Andrews and Carnoustie.

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When he looked at the flat Indiana farmland in Hamilton County, he wondered how to bring in some of the hills and terrain of Scotland.

He moved a lot of dirt to create Crooked Stick, building mounds and small hills and digging out lakes. He added railroad ties, a feature he had seen in Scotland, along with pot bunkers, which are deep and frustrating sand traps.

The club quickly joined Golf Digest's list of top 100 courses.

What is harder to measure is the way he and his wife put the state on the map of the golf world. "He has a reputation all over the country," notes Rex Early, a former Republican Party state chairman who plays golf for pleasure. "When you mention Indiana, the real students of the game will say that is where Pete Dye is from. He has that nationwide name recognition."

Yet he's still the same Pete Dye he's always been. "He's unpretentious. He's a regular guy," notes Crooked Stick pro Tony Pancake. "He does so many things helping kids that people never learn about. He's easy-going, easy to talk to."

The recognition from Methodist Sports serves as a way to thank the Dyes for extending the Indiana brand so deeply into the world of golf.

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