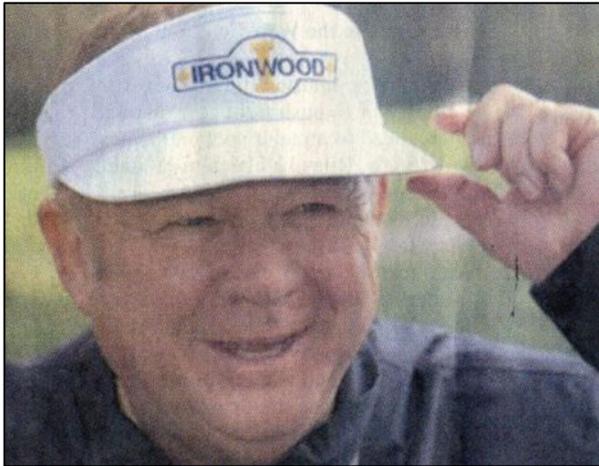


ROBERT WAYNE “BOBBY” NICHOLS
INDUCTED INTO OVC HALL

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NASHVILLE – Bobby Nichols dedicated his life to the game of golf. On Friday, his dedication to the sport and his impact on people as a longtime coach at Tennessee Tech was rewarded with a special honor. Nichols, who passed away three years ago, was posthumously inducted into the Ohio Valley Conference in a ceremony in Nashville.

“Bobby was praised today for his humility and his good nature and his focus on things he loved and his focus on other people and how he helped them,” said TTU president Dr.



Bob Bell. “I think it’s a great honor for Bobby, the family and for Tennessee Tech and the city of Cookeville.”

(Pictured: Robert Wayne “Bobby” Nichols former Tennessee Tech golf coach).

A large group from Tennessee Tech and Cookeville was in the audience when former Golden Eagle golf coach and one of the state’s top players was inducted at the 2011 Honors Luncheon at Double

Tree Hotel in downtown Nashville.

Nichols’ three brothers – Earl, John and Glenn – were in attendance and accepted the award on Bobby’s behalf. Earl told the audience how Nichols had loved golf at an early age and explained what a special person his brother was.

“It’s a tremendous honor. He deserved it,” said Earl. “He was in golf from the time he was 10 years old until he died. His brothers and I are so proud of him. This is a very special day.”

Nichols had a legendary career at Tennessee Tech, first as a player and later as a coach, while also being a promoter of the game of golf and spending three years playing professionally on the PGA Tour. Born in Algood, TN, Nichols grew up as a caddie at the Cookeville Golf Club and went on to be a four-year letterwinner on the Tennessee Tech men’s golf program in 1979 and was responsible for establishing the Golden Eagle women’s team in 1986. During the 1990 season, he guided the TTU men’s golf squad to the OVC Championship, the first for the program in 35 years. The victory also helped the TTU athletics department clinch its first-ever OVC All-Sports Trophy. Later he was named OVC Coach of the Year following the 2005 season. Nichols later guided the Tennessee Tech women’s golf team to the 2000 and 2001 OVC Championships, and was named OVC Coach of the Year in each of those seasons.

A 32-year veteran with the TTU program, Nichols was inducted into the Tennessee Tech Hall of Fame in 1990. After a battle with cancer, Nichols passed away at the age of 66 on March 16, 2008.

“I miss him so much. He was such a great man,” said former PGA Tour player Bobby Greenwood, who was one of Nichols’ closes friends. “It’s great to see him get the honor



that he deserves in a great conference like the OVC. I miss him every day and I know he’s in a better place. I hope to get there and tee it up with him some day.”

(Pictured: Bobby Nichols’ brothers, (from Left) John, Glenn

and Earl, accept the award for Bobby’s induction into the Ohio Valley Conference on Friday in a ceremony at the Double Tree Hotel in downtown Nashville).

The league handed out its annual awards, including the induction of Nichols and Ron English into the Hall of Fame. Several members of the Hall of Fame were in attendance, including former TTU baseball coach David Mays, who was also a good friend of Bobby’s.

“I think everybody who was here today know how he was,” said Mays. “I always enjoyed just talking to him about golf and baseball. He was always trying to get the best out of people.”

Rudy Kalis, sports director for WSMV TV in Nashville, served as the emcee for the event.

Awards for Male and Female Athlete of the Year, the Steve Hamilton Sportsmanship Award, scholarship awards and All-Sports Trophies were presented. The induction of Nichols and English into the OVC Hall of Fame brought the Hall’s total membership to 69.

*Read more about the people of Putnam Co., TN at: <http://www.ajlambert.com>