

Keith Alexander

“...one of the few accomplished Canadian golfers who take their love of the sport from the course to the boardroom with the same zeal and commitment.”

The Alberta Golf Hall of Fame

A True Renaissance Man



he public record on Keith Alexander reads like the story of a true Renaissance Man: a well-educated, diverse thinker excelling in a number of fields. From Golf Canada Hall of Fame inductee to MLA, Keith Alexander's remarkable abilities range from the athletic to the intellectual.

The son of a plaster contractor in Vulcan Alberta, Keith was an all-round high school athlete who golfed occasionally. He only took up golf seriously at the age of 20 when his father exchanged an outstanding bill for ten lessons in 1950 at Martin Allred's indoor golf school in Calgary.

Keith Alexander won all the 1960 major events in city, provincial and national competitions, including the Canadian Amateur.
Photo Credit: Calgary GCC.



Allred, who also taught Hall of Fame inductee Bob Wylie, spent a winter with Keith and the results are in the record book. In 1960, Keith won all the major city and provincial events and capped the year by winning the Canadian Amateur. Most notably, he would go on to six Alberta Amateur Championships, participate on 16 international teams, and become a Canadian Golf Hall of Fame member.

"I gave up all other sports," Keith recalls, "for tournament golf."

Phi Beta Kappa

One of the first Canadians to develop his game in an American university program, Keith quickly displayed proof that he had the talent to become an international golf competitor, and the scholastic ability to match.

Attending on a scholarship, he captained the University of Colorado's golf team for three years and won its first individual title while compiling a comparable record in the classroom where he received four citations for academic excellence and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, the national scholastic fraternity.

In 1957, married and with a son, he borrowed the money to join the Calgary Golf and Country Club because, he says, in those days "That's where the best players were congregating." Those players included Doug Silverberg, Bob Wylie, and Joe Ferguson.

"We really fought for those positions."

Keith credits the competitive atmosphere at the Calgary GCC with improving the level of everybody's game to the point where positions on international teams became the prize.

"We really fought for those positions."

Keith also used his talents to benefit other golfers through his commitment to the Alberta Golf Association from 1968 to 1982; he served as president in 1977.

While all his worldly successes have been rewarding for Keith, the most revealing sign of his Renaissance Man diversity is in the strength he derives from his spirituality.

"I grew up in a strongly Christian home that believed in doing things as the Scripture says – whatever you do, do it with all your might."

At one time, he considered joining the ministry but was not completely sure it was the right direction to take his life. He continued golfing and balanced the sport with a dedication to his family, his community and his career which included printing and publishing, investment banking and a stint as an MLA.

He retired in 1992 and golfed "with only modest success" on the Seniors Tour.

A Full Circle

Most important to Keith, however, is maintaining his lifelong spiritual commitment which includes participation in Links Players, an international Christian golfers group.

"Life has always been much more than golf. I have a belief in the spiritual nature of Man which transcends everyday events and gives life its fuller meaning."



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