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Archival Collection Finding Aid

Name/Title:	First of America Classic Archival Collection
Subject(s)	Golf Tournament, Jaycees
Archival Collection #:	139
Accession #:	2009.26.1
Source:	Tom Branch
Date Acquired:	3/14/2009
Span Dates:	1986 - 2002
Processor(s):	Alex Forist

Abstract:

This collection of materials documents an important golf tournament which took place in Grand Rapids between 1986 and 2004. The First of America Classic was an event on the Senior PGA and PGA Champions Tours which was played at the Elks Country Club (1986-1989), the Highlands (1990-1993), and finally at Egypt Valley (1994-2004). This collection comes from Tom Branch, who was tournament co-chair in 1997, and worked on the tournament in various capacities between 1990 and 2002. Mr. Branch has collected a significant amount of material related to the tournament including his own personal papers from his year as co-chair, numerous publications, photographs, and other paraphernalia. The materials in this collection provide an in-depth look at how a major national golf tournament was run in Grand Rapids.

History:

The First of America Classic was a golf tournament held annually in Grand Rapids, Michigan from 1986 to 2004. The tournament began as the Greater Grand Rapids Open at the Elks Country Club, but eventually moved to Egypt Valley in Ada. The tournament was a stop on the PGA Champions Tour.

Scope and Content:

This collection has the unique potential to provide researchers with both a broad overview of the First of America Classic's 16 year history, as well as a detailed look into the 1997 tournament. Although it is not complete, the collection contains many of the official tournament publications, as well as the working papers of Tom Branch, tournament co-chair in 1997. The ephemera series also contains many interesting items from the tournament over the years.

Series Descriptions:

No.	Series Name	Description
I.	Oversize	This series is made up of the items too large to fit in archival storage boxes. They include winners' checks, posters, and a sign.
II.	Ephemera	This series contains a variety of small objects associated with the First of America Classic, including, a golf towel, golf balls, golf tees, pens, watches, buttons, name tags, parking passes, a tee flag from the first tournament in 1986, and more.
III.	Photographs	The photographs series consists of 3 framed photos and several packets of snapshots all related to the First of America Classic.
IV.	Publications	This series consists of published items such as programs, brochures, schedules, etc. related to the First of America Classic.
V.	Black Binders	Two large black binders filled with detailed information from 1997, the year when the donor was co-chair for the First of America Classic.

Container List:

Container	Folder	Series	Description of Contents	Dates	Count
Oversize		Oversize	First of America Classic plastic sign	1993	1
Oversize		Oversize	Champion's check	1997	1
Oversize		Oversize	Michelob Shootout check	1992	1
Oversize		Oversize	Charity Check	1992	1
Oversize		Oversize	Hospice Check	1992	1
Oversize		Oversize	Gilbert Check	1992	1
Oversize		Oversize	Tournament Poster	1991	1
Oversize		Oversize	Autographed Tournament Poster	1992	1
Oversize		Oversize	Tournament Poster	1993	1
Oversize		Oversize	Tournament Poster	1994	1
Oversize		Oversize	Tournament Poster	1995	1
Box 1		Ephemera	Assorted small items	1986-1997	100
Box 1		Photographs	3 framed photos and many snapshots	1993-1997	75
Box 2		Black Binders	2 binders filled with detailed information from event co-chair	1997	2
Box 3		Publications	Programs, brochures, schedules, etc.	1986-2002	100
Box 4		Publications	Programs, brochures, schedules, etc.	1986-2002	100
Box 5		Publications	Programs, brochures, schedules, etc.	1986-2002	100