

JOHN BURTON LOEBEL '79

In 1975 a touch of Wisconsin descended upon Southwestern when John Loebel arrived on campus as a multitalented athlete and outstanding student. John didn't know quite what to think of his new teammates from Arkansas, Kentucky and Tennessee with their Southern accents, but a bond was established that led to great golf teams and friendships that have lasted for more than 30 years.

As a freshman, John started at quarterback for the Lynx in five games, but an outstanding year in golf persuaded him to focus on his golf swing rather than touchdown passes for the remaining years of his career. Known for his long drives and pinpoint iron play, John quickly made his mark on the Lynx golf team. He capped off a great freshman year by winning the College Athletic Conference (CAC) title at Whitehaven Country Club, shooting a final round 68. As a result of his spectacular play, he was selected to play in the NCAA Division III Golf Championships in Springfield, Ohio.

John served as captain of the golf team his sophomore through senior years. During his career he was the match medalist more than 20 times. In addition to winning the 1976 CAC title, he was the individual runner-up in 1978. Playing #1 each of his four years, the Lynx won College Athletic Conference team titles in 1976 and 1978.

Though you can still detect his Wisconsin accent, John Loebel has made Memphis his home since graduating in 1979, and we're glad he did. He has enjoyed a successful career as a mortgage lender and banker, and currently serves as vice president for Financial Federal Savings Bank. We are grateful for the camaraderie of John and his teammates, the leadership and passion he brought to the golf program and the distinction he bestowed upon his alma mater through his championship play. Rhodes is honored to induct JOHN BURTON LOEBEL into the Rhodes Athletic Hall of Fame this 29th day of October, 2010.