

EARLE HELLEN SPORTS MEDIA AWARD

This award honors an outstanding member of the media who best exemplifies the commitment and service to golf reporting, and who demonstrates the same genuine appreciation for the role of the PGA Professional as was demonstrated by Earle Hellen.

BARKER DAVIS - *The Washington Times*

Barker Davis is a golf purist who is very passionate about the game. You would think, as a golf writer for *The Washington Times* since 1995, that he was always a golf nut. Not so, says Barker. "I originally hated the game, but my father persevered through my tantrums and preferences for baseball, swimming and tennis and finally turned me into a golfer and a fanatic."

Barker learned the game at the age of six from his father, a doctor who took up the game in his late 20s, and eventually became a fine player (6-handicapper). His father is recently retired, playing his golf at Chattanooga Golf and Country Club and rarely shooting above 77.

He enjoyed some early success in golf. Barker was the Junior Club Champion at Chattanooga Golf and Country Club from 1987-1990. His high school golf team (Baylor HS) won 3 consecutive state championships. He currently maintains a 4 handicap.

Barker calls himself "a purist and a dreamer. No sport suits such a paradoxical nature like golf." He truly loves the game, calling it the greatest game ever invented. He feels a rebirth every spring, when he can shake the rust off and get back out on the course. It's no wonder he's had so much success writing about and playing golf - his passion is his vocation.

Barker has been married to Kelly for 2 ½ years and credits her as being a much better athlete than him. He contemplates that if she ever catches the golf bug, they will be quite the team in the mixed four-ball.