

## ★ ROSEMARY THOMPSON ★

Rosemary Phillips Thompson, 51, queen of the links in women's golf here in the past 15 years, is far from retirement.

The veteran shotmaker, who many say still has the skills to continue to dominate the golf scene for another decade, is being enshrined tonight as the 51st member of the Albuquerque Sports Hall of Fame.

"This is the big one for me," said Thompson, who was named to the Panhandle (Amarillo) Sports Hall of Fame in 1987 and to the Cornwall (Ont. Canada) Sports Hall of Fame in 1967.

"It's a wonderful thrill because I still get a chance to play the game I love. I've played golf since I was seven years old.

"I play three to four times a week at Four Hills Country Club, my home course."

Thompson's credits are legend.

- She owns 16 course records in New Mexico and Texas, but is best known locally in having won 10 Southwestern Women's Amateur crowns and eight Albuquerque City Women's titles.

- She has scored five holes-in-one and has won 23 women's club championships (16 at Four Hills).

She has won four New Mexico State Amateur titles, two Sun Country Amateur crowns plus two titles in the New Mexico Senior Women's Amateur, five in the Amarillo City Women's Amateur, four in the West Texas Women's Amateur, two in the Texas Women's Public Links and one in the Texas Women's Amateur.

The biggest thrill for the transplanted Canadian and former University of New Mexico golfer came in 1992 when she won the U.S.G.A. National Senior Women's Championship with a tourney record 73-73-74-220 at the Tucson Country Club.

Her latest course record was last fall in defense of that Women's Senior title when she fired a first-round 73 at the

Preakness Hills Country Club in Wayne, N.J. Thompson finished ninth in the rain-plagued tourney, won by Ann Sander, the runnerup when Thompson won at Tucson.

"I never took golf lessons. I learned on my own," Thompson said.

"I have a short, flat and fast swing. Dick McGuire, who was my golf coach during the three semesters I played at UNM in 1964-66, didn't change my style. Most coaches, nowadays provide a mental attitude to the game. Coaches won't change your swing unless it's absolutely necessary."

Thompson was born and reared in Cornwall, Ont., Canada, where, golf is played only three months out of the year.

Thompson, who came from an athletic family, was an ice skater and also played badminton and tennis while attending Cornwall Collegiate and Vocation School, a 5-year high school.

She attended Western Ontario College in London, Ont. for one year, and in 1960 worked in the business office for Ontario Bell Telephone.

Thompson was a physical education major during the three semesters she and another top Lobo star of the time, Mary Jo Campbell, attended UNM. When Thompson joined the Lobo team, there were no women's golf scholarships.

Thompson taught commercial subjects at Shelburne, Ont. Canada High School from 1966 until she returned to Albuquerque in 1969.

She worked six months at Albuquerque National Bank and later as McGuire's secretary. She was married in 1971.

"Since then I've played golf virtually all the time, including five years in Amarillo," said Thompson. "I helped my husband as a bookkeeper in his business, but mostly it was golf, golf, golf."