Jody Davenport: Coach and Professor
• We had the honor of interviewing a former assistant coach for the University golf team when it was coached by Jody Davenport.
• Davenport was a part of the physical education department here at the University and taught many classes. Jody was known as having a “happy-go-lucky” personality in the classroom and on the course.
• “Students bonded to her happy, enthusiastic forthrightness,” according to one colleague. (2)
• Jody allowed our interviewee to assist with the golf team for 4 years and helped her to gain the experience necessary to become a high school and collegiate level golf coach.
• Jody also enjoyed playing other sports such as tennis. She “gave her life to women’s athletics”.

Did You Know?!?!?
• Title IX was originally written for educational purposes only. It was not until after when individuals decided to apply the document to athletics.
• Title IX Pre-amble—“No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance. (5)
• Since it was released exemptions have been added to the statement, but the original Title IX was only a sentence long even though its impact has been one of the largest in the history of athletics. (5)

Title IX Connection
• Jody played sports before Title IX was in existent. She had to try to make teams and play sports without the help of any federal legislation.
• Then she had to coach sports teams before the legislation. The Illini golf program never existed as a division I team while she was the coach.
• Davenport played a part in the transformation of women’s golf form a club to a Division I sport here at the University of Illinois.
• While Jody was the Athletic Director at Auburn University in she, “personally shaped the evolution of the institution’s commitment to gender equality in athletics.” (4)

Other Achievements
• Jody was the first visiting physical education professor at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. (2)
• She was even a member of the U.S. Olympic Committee’s Education Council for eight years during the late 1970’s into the early 80’s. (2)
• Davenport was a member of influential organizations such as the Women’s Sports Foundation and was even the president of the National Association for Girls and Women in Sports for multiple years. (2)

The Later Years
• After leaving the University of Illinois in 1976, Jody became the director for women’s athletics at Auburn University for 20 years. (3)
• Davenport was posthumously awarded a lifetime achievement award by the National Association of Collegiate Women Athletic Administrators. (3)
• She was given this high honor because of her contributions to sports like tennis and golf, as well as her work as an administrator.

Pictures Courtesy of Interviewee
Pictures of Jody on the course with the University of Illinois golf club.

Jody (left) with two colleagues from her days at the University of Illinois.