



## Leland "Duke" Gibson

(1908-1977)

In addition to his splendid record as a player, **"Duke" Gibson** was sought out by many of the best players in the area as a teaching professional, friend and mentor.

Mr. Gibson started as a caddy at age 10, worked his way through the ranks and eventually turned professional in 1934 at White Lakes Country Club in Topeka, KS. He moved to Kansas City where he became the head Professional at the old Meadow Lake Country Club (75th and State Line Rd.) before moving to Swope Park No. 1 (Swope Memorial). After returning from active service in World War II, he was hired as Head Professional at Blue Hills where he would serve for twenty-five years.



Mr. Gibson maintained his game well enough to make the cut in sixteen US Open Championships and played in the prestigious Masters Tournament ten times. He served his fellow professionals as President of the Midwest Section PGA for six terms and one term as national vice president. He was a member of the PGA Tournament Players Committee.

For his distinguished career as a club professional and as a player, the Board of Directors is proud to include Leland "Duke" Gibson in the inaugural (2013) class of the Kansas City Golf Hall of Fame.

### *Mr. Gibson's record:*

*1934-1937 - Head Professional White Lakes Country Club, Topeka, KS  
1937 - 1939 - Head Golf Professional at Meadow Lake CC  
1939 - 1942 - Head Golf Professional at Swope Park #1 GC  
1942 - 1945 - U.S. Army Air Corps in WW II  
1946 - 1971 - Head Golf Professional at Blue Hills CC  
President of the Midwest Section, PGA six times  
Played in 10 Masters, 1946 - 1955  
Played in 16 U.S. Opens 1940 - 1957 (made cut in 8)  
Quarter finalist in the PGA (Matchplay) 1947*