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**ATLANTA ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEON NAMED ONE OF GOLF DIGEST'S
TOP 250 DOCTOR GOLFERS**

ATLANTA, GA...Dr. Hugh McLeod has been named one of Golf Digest's Top 250 doctor golfers, as presented in the August issue.

Ten years ago, Dr. McLeod began in earnest to develop his golfing skills. Virtually every Saturday and Sunday year around, he can be found enjoying a few rounds at Atlanta Country Club. His love of medicine and golf led him 16 years ago to become the Medical Director for the BellSouth PGA Classic, held every April at Sugarloaf Country Club in Duluth.

Asked if he ever considered playing professionally, Dr. McLeod said, "Golf is great relaxation (and frustration), but my confidence and competence is in practicing orthopaedic surgery." An all-around sportsman, McLeod played high school baseball and football and went on to play baseball at The University of Mississippi, where his team competed in the Collegiate World Series in 1972. His love of all sports was instrumental in his development of the sports medicine program at Walton High School in Marietta in 1982. In recognition of his tireless devotion and philanthropic efforts for preventative

medicine for children and young adults, Walton High School named the Hugh C. McLeod Sports Center in his honor in 2001.

The Golf Digest ranking required physicians to have a current low USGA Handicap Index and be actively practicing medicine to make the Top 250. Many factors and resources went into the publication's identification of a mix of low handicappers with high achievers. Interestingly, the list contained a large number of orthopaedic surgeons, widely known as the jocks of their profession. Urologists ranked number two. As one can imagine, the qualities needed to become an excellent physician are also those needed to become a great golfer – perfectionism, attention to detail and precise motor skills.

With a 10.2 handicap index, one of McLeod's golf highlights was playing at Augusta National with a friend. Unfortunately, when asked about any tour-player patients he has treated, McLeod cited medical privacy laws. He could answer two other important questions: Has he ever experienced back pain common in golfers and does he walk while playing or ride in a cart? He answered "yes" to back pain from a degenerating lumbar spine, and "yes" to the cart when his osteoarthritic knees are hurting (but that would not keep him off the course in any weather).

Having practiced orthopaedic medicine for over 24 years, McLeod remains one of the state's most highly-regarded, sought-after physicians. He sees patients at his Johnson Ferry Road office in East Cobb County and performs surgeries at Northside and St. Joseph's Hospitals in Atlanta.