

TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Awarded for excellence in golf instruction along with overall performance as a PGA Professional. Impact on teaching and golf instruction, involvement in junior golf activities, innovative contributions to golf instruction and articles published are some of the criteria considered for this award.

Michael Dickson, PGA
Congressional Country Club
Bethesda, Maryland

Michael Dickson was born on December 31, 1979 to parents Eric and Carlotta Dickson and has one brother, Matthew. Michael grew up in northeastern Ohio where there are many great golf courses. His father put a plastic club in his hand before he could walk. Although Michael played other sports while growing up, he decided to focus on the game of golf at the age of 13, but it wasn't until three years later that he received his first lesson from PGA Professional Dennis Miller, a great player in the northeastern Ohio area who qualified for the 2012 US Open. He played all four years of high school on the varsity golf team where he missed the State Championships individually by 2 strokes his senior year.

Michael had originally aspired to become an architect while in high school and had been accepted to the University of Cincinnati for Architectural Engineering. However, his mother went to the local library and discovered a college with a specific program to become a PGA Professional. After a campus visit, Michael made his decision to change his career path and attended Ferris State University's Professional Golf Management Program where he graduated in 2002 with his Bachelor's Degree in Business Marketing. He earned his PGA membership shortly after his graduation in 2003.

Michael's first job after graduation as a PGA Professional was as an Assistant at Fiddlesticks Country Club in Fort Myers, Fl. From there he worked as an Assistant at Grey Oaks Country Club in Naples, Fl. In 2004 he moved to Congressional Country Club in Bethesda, Md. where he started as an Assistant, but in the past six years he has advanced to the position as the PGA Head Certified Teaching Professional at Congressional.

Michael has invested a lot of time and energy into becoming one of the top instructors in the State of Maryland and in the Middle Atlantic PGA. He runs numerous coaching programs for different skill levels and ages ranging from junior golfers to scratch golfers, and during the 2015 season, he organized and ran over 300 group sessions. Michael has studied under some of the best talents in the industry and has earned certifications in TPI Junior Coach 2 & 3, US Kids Certified Coach, AimPoint Green Reading, Edel Golf Advisory Staff, Nike Golf 360 Specialist by Gray Institute, BioSwing Dynamics Level 1 and Lynn Blake Certified as a Master Instructor. Using Homer Kelley's book *The Golfing Machine*, Michael focuses on key alignments that all golfers and golf swings create to provide a simpler and more efficient motion. In 2015, Michael began changing his teaching model by shifting away from individual instruction to more coaching and group instruction using the Will Robins RGX model.

In 2014 and 2015, Michael was recognized by US Kids Golf as one of the Top 50 Junior Instructors in the country. In 2015, he was named by Golf Digest as one of America's Best in State Instructors for the

state of Maryland. He strives to share his knowledge with his students and his fellow PGA Professionals with the goal to continue growing the game and giving back to a game that has given him so much.

Michael's teaching philosophy is a mesh of the geometry of the swing along with the biomechanics of the body. He screens every student with the BioSwing Dynamics screen to learn how they are built. After completing the screening process, Michael understands how and where the club should move in the swing along with the student's body. With every student he focuses on three important keys: the club face, the club shaft, and the body. Everyone has unique tendencies that require varying levels of improvement, but there are keys from the all-time great swings of the past and present that everyone can replicate to better their own motion. It is Michael's goal to provide that knowledge and opportunity in every lesson. After working with Lynn Blake, Michael feels as though his eye for the swing has been magnified to aid him to see the problem quicker which helps spending more of the lesson time fixing the problem. Everyone wants to improve, but it is difficult to get students to commit to changing unless they see results quickly and easily. With the help of The Golfing Machine and using his knowledge from Lynn, Michael feels that he can provide the motivation needed for all golfers of any age or skill level.

Michael and his wife Amber have been married for seven years. They live on Kent Island, Md. to be half way between each other's work. Michael and Amber love spending time with their two-year old son Cole on Kent Island. Michael is still working on Cole's grip, but cannot wait for him to spend time at the course with him.