

## **GOLF PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR**

*This award bestows special recognition on a PGA Member whose total contributions to the game best exemplify the complete PGA Golf Professional.*

### **ROBERT F. DOLAN - Columbia Country Club**

Bob Dolan grew up in Long Island, New York. His parents, Bob and MaryAnn Dolan were very supportive of their children offering encouragement at every opportunity. Bob's father taught him to play golf when he was 10 years old. As a young man, Bob participated in several team sports, but he was particularly drawn to golf because he realized that his success was dependent solely upon himself. He got his first golf-related job when he was 16 years old working at Fernway Driving Range under the tutelage of PGA Golf Professional, Luther Showaker. Bob declared his professional status in 1982, entered the PGA Apprentice program in 1983, and was elected to membership in 1987. He worked at Hidden Valley Resort in Somerset, Pennsylvania from 1987 to 1992.

Bob takes great pride in being recognized as a well rounded professional. He attributes his success to the positive influence and careful guidance he received from golf professionals Luther Showaker, Jerry Heard, Ward Burgess, Jack Doser and Bill Strausbaugh. Bob's expertise in developing and implementing effective policies and procedures has earned him the reputation of having one of the best trained staffs in the Section. The strength of his management skills and professionalism were exhibited when he was hired as the Head Professional at Lakewood Country Club in 1992. Bob's success in the revitalization and growth of this club to one of the Middle Atlantic's top facilities was key to his selection in a nationwide search conducted by Columbia Country Club in 1995 to follow PGA legend Bill Strausbaugh as Head Golf Professional at that facility.

Bob is an excellent teacher. His students, talented junior and amateur players, have captured titles such as the Washington Metropolitan Junior Player of the Year and Maryland State Junior Champion. Also, Columbia CC has held the Maryland State Team Championship for three consecutive years. As a player, Bob seems to always find his way into the top ten in MAPGA section events and has played in three national Club Professional Championships.

Bob's untiring search for excellence in tournament management has brought many benefits to his club and to the MAPGA. Under his chairmanship, the MAPGA Section tournament program has been restructured to include significantly higher caliber events, and

purses have grown substantially.

Bob leads by example. His reputation for helping others succeed in the golf industry make him a frequently sought after mentor by eager young men and women seeking to enter the golf business. He willingly shares his knowledge with fellow club professionals seeking employment as well as with area clubs seeking club professionals.

Not only does Bob lead by example, he encourages others to assume leadership roles. He has a unique ability to generate enthusiastic participation in others. Through Bob's persuasive efforts and diplomatic persistence, his peers are currently volunteering to support the Section's Junior Golf activities at the highest rate in recent memory.

Junior Golf is Bob's true passion. He spends literally countless hours working on the MAPGA's programs with Washington, D.C. inner-city youth organizations as well as those at Columbia Country Club to insure that every junior is exposed to the game of golf and to insure its growth for the future. He is a master at getting the attention of young people. To watch Bob Dolan's gentle but firm approach with a group of wide-eyed children is truly a sight to behold.

Bob's commitment to his profession and his fellow golf professionals is reflected in his history of service to his association. He has served on and chaired as many as four committees annually for the past four years. He has been a Chapter officer since 1994 and serves on the Section Board of Directors. He has also represented the Section as an alternate delegate to the PGA Annual Meeting. Bob was honored with the Section's President's Award in 1996.

Bob's unfailing commitment to his profession is surpassed only by his commitment to his family. He and his wife, Dawn, have been married twelve years, and Bob is devoted to her and their two children, Bobby and Shannon.

Bob's unquestionable integrity, forthrightness and selfless service to those around him make him an inspiring leader of the highest order. To the younger professionals he is the role model of faith, family and job. The Section's more seasoned professionals respect and trust him, and are confident he will continue to keep the MAPGA moving forward while maintaining the tradition, image and integrity of the true PGA golf professional.