

Junior Golf Leader
Meredith A. Loosse, PGA, LPGA
Director of Robins Junior Programs at Independence Golf Club

Born in 1971 along the Jersey shore in Neptune, New Jersey, Meredith Loosse began her life in golf at the age of seven. Her parents, Ken and Sue, settled the Loosse family in the San Francisco Bay area when Meredith was eight months old and that is where she was introduced to the sport that would shape her future.

Meredith's mother, Sue, was the biggest influence on her decision to play golf. "She always told me that I should do something I love," said Meredith. Golf was her love and as an amateur, Meredith eventually earned a 3rd place ranking amongst all Northern California girl golfers. Meredith also competed in four USGA Girl's Junior Championships and one USGA Women's Amateur Championship. This success at the amateur level caught the attention of college coaches and Meredith made the big decision to leave Northern California to pursue a business degree at the University of Kentucky on a full golf scholarship.

During high school and college, Meredith worked on the golf staff at Palo Alto Golf Course in Palo Alto, California where PGA Professional Brad Lozares led the staff and took Meredith under his wing. Teaching her the true meaning of being a golf professional, Brad mentored Meredith through all aspects of the golf operation starting with merchandising in the golf shop. After returning from college, Meredith assisted Brad with his Junior Golf Camps. Meredith learned from Brad that it was always important to keep the learning experience fun which would, in turn, keep the children's attention.

Following college, Meredith pursued her passion to play the game and spent some time on the Players West Tour and the LPGA's Futures Tour. She then made her way back to Palo Alto Golf Course and became one of Brad's Assistant Golf Professionals.

Meredith became a golf professional in 1994 and accepted a position as the First Assistant Professional at Bay Point Yacht and Country Club in Panama City Beach, Florida. She remained at Bay Point for the next three years; then made her way back to California by taking a First Assistant position at Pruneridge Golf Course in Santa Clara. Only a year would pass at Pruneridge before Meredith returned to Palo Alto. From 1999-2002, Meredith worked alongside Brad Lozares as his First Assistant and Retail Coordinator. While under Brad's tutelage, she earned her Class A Membership with the LPGA. Reflecting on her time spent with Brad at Palo Alto Meredith says, "I am so very thankful that I was taught by one of the best!"

In the summer of 2002, Meredith made her way across the country to the Middle Atlantic Section by accepting a position with Cross Creek Golf Club in Beltsville, Maryland. The next year, Meredith ventured south to Charlottesville, Virginia where she became an Associate Golf Professional at Farmington Country Club and would remain for the next nine years. In early 2012, Meredith pulled from all her experiences and accepted her current position as the Director of the Robins Junior Programs at Independence Golf Club in Midlothian, Virginia.

Meredith earned her PGA Class A Membership in 2008 and credits several PGA and LPGA members for being positive influences on her career. In addition to Lozares, Meredith contributes much of her knowledge on the short game to LPGA Teaching & Club Professional Hall of Famer and Former Tour Player Betty Hicks. Betty, who was also from California, was one of Meredith's first instructors. When it came to full swing techniques, Meredith learned everything she knows from PGA Instructor John McMullin who has been the long-time teaching professional at Palo Alto Golf Course. Working for Rob McNamara, PGA at Farmington Country Club, Meredith witnessed how the Country Club atmosphere can be fun and exciting.

From these professional influences, Meredith developed her own personal golf philosophy that focuses on "helping and teaching students, especially children, that golf is more than a sport, it is a game that will teach life lessons to be used every day, on or off the course." She recognizes that people have different learning styles and her goal is to adapt to what will work best for her students. Once this learning style barrier is broken, Meredith focuses on making the learning experience fun and sharing her love for the game.

In her first year as the Robins Junior Program Director, Meredith increased an already growing program by 47% and serviced over 3,000 children during the 2012 season. However, Meredith made her biggest impact with the program when she ventured outside of Independence Golf Club. The at-risk communities of Richmond were her first focus. She worked with the Police Athletic League (PAL) in Richmond and every Tuesday and Wednesday 80 children were bussed to Independence for golf classes that lasted eight weeks. Meredith also held classes for 3rd, 4th and 5th graders at two Richmond area elementary schools. At the conclusion of these classes, Meredith, along with the VSGA Scholarship Committee, offered two full scholarships for students at the elementary school to attend the Robins Summer Program. Meredith also experienced success with her first Girls Golf Day by reaching out to the LPGA and the local Girls Scouts of America troop.

Meredith enjoys playing in MAPGA and LPGA T&CP Division tournaments. She loved it when her father, Ken, would fly from Tucson, Arizona to Virginia to caddy for her. Meredith's father passed away in 2011 and she committed to herself that she would make the Robins Junior Golf Program bigger and better in honor of her father. Playing golf with her dad or having him carrying her bag was some of her proudest days.

When Meredith is not devoting her time to junior golf at Independence Golf Club, she enjoys volunteering. You may see her ringing the bell for the Salvation Army during the holidays or helping out with the Charlottesville Toy-Lift. In addition, she gives her time as the Treasurer for the Northeast LPGA Section.

Meredith lives with her family in Ruckersville, VA. They love coming home to their two dogs, Pepper and Zoe.