

**Jim Ducibella**  
*Formerly of The Virginian-Pilot*  
*Williamsburg, Virginia*

Jim Ducibella was born on October 24, 1952 in Washington, D.C. to Jim and Marie Ducibella. As an only child, Jim describes his childhood as “idyllic.” His mother Marie was a homemaker and his father was home every night for family dinner. Jim’s parents made their home the focal point of the neighborhood, with his mom cooking many Italian meals, the taste of which he still carries with him, 25 years after her passing. They were the best role models anyone could ever hope for.

Jim’s friend Tony introduced him to the game of golf at the age of 14. A group of Tony’s friends played every Saturday morning at Rock Creek Golf Course in Washington D.C. Jim borrowed his dad’s clubs and even though he was a slow player, he really enjoyed the experience.

Jim earned his Bachelor of Science in Communication Arts from Xavier University, Cincinnati, Ohio in 1974. He went on to earn his Masters Degree in Journalism from Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wis. in 1976. While at Marquette, Jim applied to join a journalism fraternity. Part of the process was to interview a journalist, so he called the sports editor of the Milwaukee Journal, Chuck Johnson. At the completion of the interview, Chuck offered Jim a job. It turns out, Chuck’s idea of a job and Jim’s were very different. Jim thought he’d have his own desk, write stories, and maybe cover the Green Bay Packers. Chuck’s idea was for Jim to come in at 6 a.m., fill glue pots, deliver papers to the editorial writers, fetch chocolate chip cookies for the editors, and basically do every job no one else wanted to do. Turned out, Jim loved it!

Jim’s first real job was as a copy editor at *The Washington Star* in Washington D.C. from 1978-1981. This is where Dick Slay gave him his first golf assignment and designated him the person that the professionals would call their information into when Slay wasn’t at *The Star*. Jim spent a majority of his career (1981-2008) at *The Virginian-Pilot* in Norfolk, Virginia. During his interview with *The Virginian-Pilot*, George McClelland asked Jim if he had covered any golf before, with his answer being yes, Jim was made the new golf writer for *The Virginian-Pilot*. Three weeks later, The LPGA came to Sleepy Hole GC in Suffolk, Virginia and Jim was sent to cover the tournament.

Jim is a seven-time Sportswriter of the Year in Virginia, as voted by his peers and in 2010, he was inducted into the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame in the class that included Alonzo Mourning, Herman Moore, Jim Dombrowski and former Redskins assistant coach Larry Peccatiello. Jim has written two books on golf, “Par Excellence: A Celebration of Virginia Golf,” an anecdotal history of the game in the Commonwealth (2000), and “King of Clubs: The Great Golf Marathon of 1938.” It’s the true story of a Virginia-born Chicago stockbroker who makes a bet, worth \$100,000 in land and cash, that he can play 600 holes of golf over 4 consecutive days in 8 different cities, starting in Los Angeles and ending in New York (March 2012).

Strive to be the best at what you do, that is what Jim attributes his success to. He took everything seriously, treated everyone with respect, and he wound up achieving more than anyone, himself included, thought possible.

Jim and his wife Sue have been married 21 years, and he still hasn't figured out what he did to deserve her. They have two daughters: Stephanie, who lives in Chantilly, Virginia and who is in the process of creating her own business; and Katherine Witten, who lives in Norfolk and works for the City of Virginia Beach. They have two terrific men in their lives, Christian Johnston and Eric Witten.