

EARLE HELLEN SPORTS MEDIA AWARD

This award bestows special recognition on an outstanding member of the media who best exemplifies a commitment and service to golf and sport reporting and who demonstrates the same genuine appreciation for the role of the PGA Professional as was demonstrated by the late Earle Hellen (formerly of the Newport News Newspapers).

Kevin P. Kane

Virginia Golf Report, Glen Allen, Virginia

Kevin P. Kane was born on May 19, 1962 in Albany, NY to Joseph and Jacqueline Kane. He has two siblings, Brother Steve and Sister Karen. Both Kevin's father and brother are avid golfers and his father played on the golf team at Niagara University in upstate New York. Joseph Kane also caddied in the US Open at Oak Hill in 1956 for Tour Professional Billy Maxwell. In his 4 rounds, Maxwell was paired with Billy Casper, Ken Venturi, and Arnold Palmer, quite an experience for caddie Joseph!

Kevin remembers following his father and brother around the golf course at Ardsley Country Club in New York, and decided around the age of 10 that he wanted to take up golf. He recognizes his father for playing a significant role in his development as a young golfer. Joseph made it possible for his sons to play regularly when he became a member of Ardsley Country Club. Kevin and his brother enjoyed playing in their interclub league called the Westchester Junior Golf League, which provided a great opportunity to be exposed to some of the other great golf courses in that area.

Kevin graduated from Pfeiffer University with a degree in Sports Management. While at Pfeiffer, he played on the golf team and was selected as Most Valuable Player two times. Kevin played the Club Championship at Ardsley Country Club one time and played two times in the North-South Amateur at Pinehurst. One of Kevin's fondest memories was being a caddie in the 1986 US Open at Shinnecock for an "old" junior golf friend of his.

Upon graduating from Pfeiffer University, Kevin went to work at Pine Needles Golf Resort in the Pinehurst area of North Carolina. He then moved to Richmond and went to work for Transamerica Commercial Finance and later GE Capital in the inventory finance business.

Ever since he was a young kid, Kevin recalls being obsessed with golf, especially tournament golf. He loved reading about tournament golf and the players that competed. He identifies more with *Golf World* or *Golfweek* rather than a *Golf Digest* or *Golf Magazine*. This is why *Virginia Golf Report* tries to emulate *Golf World* and *Golfweek*, covering tournaments that may not get coverage anywhere else.

Kevin and his wife, Jennifer, published their first issue of *Virginia Golf Report* in the fall of 2007. Jennifer did all the graphic design work and Kevin wrote most of the content. Neither one of them had any experience or background in publishing, but for some reason they knew they could do it. Their goal was to cover golf tournaments in the central Virginia area that were not getting print coverage; areas like junior golf, college golf, and the Middle Atlantic PGA.

The Virginia Golf Report is still in its early growth stages but is now staffed with more writers as their team continues to try to improve the publication with every issue. Kevin and Jennifer have been married for ten years and have a son, Carter (6).