

***Bernard Najar, PGA***  
*Woodholme Country Club*  
*Baltimore, Maryland*

Bernie was born December 31, 1971 in Bethesda, Maryland to Andre and Bernadette Najar. Growing up in a large family with siblings Cathy, Isabelle, Helene, Carolyn, Valerie, and Kenny made it easy for him to feel comfortable doing things on his own. Bernie grew up playing a great deal of tennis along with other sports before playing golf. His father was a tremendous tennis player who played on the Egyptian Davis Cup Team, in six Wimbledon Championships and in the U.S. Open.

Bernie began playing golf at age 13 when he skipped tennis camp to attend his first junior golf clinic at Kenwood Country Club with Head PGA Professional Rod Thompson. Rod and his staff at the junior clinics made Bernie's introduction to golf a fun experience. The thrill of playing a new sport and the challenge of hitting the ball to a distant target encouraged him to play on a regular basis. Bernie continued to immerse himself in golf through high school and at the junior golf program at Bethesda Country club with Jim Folks, PGA. During high school, he was selected to the All-Metropolitan Golf Team for 1988-1990. He then attended the American University on a golf scholarship and graduated with a degree in Finance in 1994.

In May of 1994, Bernie started his PGA Apprenticeship under Mark Helffrich, PGA at the Suburban Club in Baltimore, Maryland. From there, Bernie was hired by Charlie Staples, PGA to teach his son full time during the winter and spring months in Florida. During the summer of 1995, Bernie taught lessons at Montclair Golf, Tennis, and Swim Club in Montclair, Virginia. In the spring of 1996, he joined the staff at Woodholme Country Club in Baltimore, Maryland as a teaching professional alongside Wayne Defrancesco, PGA. In 1998, he was elected to PGA Membership upon completing the PGA Golf Professional Training Program. In 2006, Bernie was promoted to PGA Director of Instruction at Woodholme Country Club where he continues to offer a comprehensive, year-round instruction program.

Throughout Bernie's career, his mission has been to promote the game of golf through his instruction program. To accomplish this, Bernie is an avid student of the game who regularly attends continuing education seminars and certification programs to improve his knowledge of the game. Additionally, he attends several PGA Tour events each year to film the best players in action and to stay current with what the best players are doing on tour. Bernie's favorite event to film the players is at the Masters, where he has been a regular since 2005. At the Masters, Bernie has filmed countless hours of shots hit by the best players in the world on full swing and short game shots. Bernie studies their techniques on a regular basis to improve his understanding of the many combinations that produce great shots in golf. In addition, Bernie shares video clips with students during lessons and with fellow PGA professionals during education seminars.

When it comes to education, Bernie enjoys sharing his knowledge of the game and teaching techniques with his peers at education seminars. In addition, he is passionate

about providing his fellow PGA professionals unique opportunities to learn from other instructors. Whether at official seminars, teaching summits, or just offering informal advice on the phone, Bernie encourages his peers to be passionate about improving their skills and the importance of studying success. To accomplish this, he encourages his peers to share their success stories and new findings that have made their programs successful.

Bernie's success as a PGA Professional is a result of loving his job and being self-motivated to develop and improve his skills on a regular basis. In addition to being a devoted PGA professional, Bernie is also a dedicated family man. He and his wife Susan have been married for nine-years and have three dogs that they love very much, Emma, Maggie and Elvis. Susan, and the members of Woodholme Country Club have always been extremely supportive of Bernie's work as a PGA Professional, encouraging his professional development at every opportunity.

Along with this, Bernie has been very fortunate to have the opportunity work with a number of very talented players that include: 1998 Maryland Open Champion, Keith Unikel; 2009 Maryland Open Champion, Matt Bassler; and 2009 and 2011 Virginia State Golf Association Player of the Year, Scott Shingler. Working with these top players has made Bernie a better teacher and provided a template for success that has been extremely helpful for motivating his students to improve.

Since 2000, Bernie has been recognized by "Golf Digest" as being a top instructor in Maryland, as well as "Golf Magazine" since 2007. Additionally, he has been recognized by his peers in the Middle Atlantic Section with several awards that include: 2004 Teacher of the Year and the Horton Smith Award in 2011.