

***Michael L. West, PGA***  
*Independence Golf Club, Midlothian, Virginia*

Mike was born June 24, 1960 in Burlington, North Carolina to Jack and Elsie West. He has one brother, David. Both of Mike's parents and both of his grandfathers played golf. His father introduced him to the game at Shamrock Golf Club in Burlington when Mike was three years old. Mike later played at Piedmont Crescent, now Quarry Hills Country Club, in Graham, North Carolina.

Mike's father, Jack, along with Shamrock Golf Club's Head PGA Professional Steve Walker, had a tremendous influence on Mike's game at an early age. Father and son played numerous rounds together with Mike's fondest memory being that of going to Pinehurst to play course #2 on Saturday mornings. Steve Walker had played collegiate golf at Wake Forest in the late 1960s and became like a big brother and mentor who introduced Mike to Wake Forest players such as Lanny Wadkins, Joe Inman, Jim Simmons, and Jack Lewis.

Mike worked in the golf shop and on the outside at Piedmont Crescent while in high school. He picked the range in exchange for hitting practice balls. Mike graduated from the University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill) with a degree in Business Administration. He played collegiate golf from 1978-1982, and won the 1980 Eastern Amateur, the 1982 North Carolina Amateur, and the 1982 Carolinas Amateur.

Mike declared his professional status in 1983 and played in many PGA Tour and mini-tour events until 1988. He worked from 1989 to 1992 at Farmington Country Club in Charlottesville, Virginia for PGA Professional Bobby McIver and was elected to PGA membership while there in October of 1990. In 1993, Mike moved to the Head PGA Professional position at Lansdowne Resort in Lansdowne, Virginia; in 1994, he became the PGA Director of Golf at The Country Club of Virginia in Richmond; and in 2001, he moved to his current position as Head PGA Professional at Independence Golf Club in Midlothian, Virginia, the home of the Virginia State Golf Association.

In 1989, Mike won the Section and National PGA Assistants' Championships along with the Section Pro-Assistant with Bobby McIver. In 1992, he won the MAPGA Section Championship and participated in the 74<sup>th</sup> PGA Championship at Bellerive Country Club in St. Louis, Missouri.

Mike ensures that his staff is aware that golf is a customer service business and that they make the members and players feel welcome and at ease. Whether it's a public or private facility, he believes the game of golf drives the entire operation and that outstanding service will keep the players happy and returning to support the entire facility including the golf shop, rounds, food/beverage, and range usage. Mike also believes that junior golfers are the future of the game and that every facility should be promoting junior golf.

Mike is a member of Richmond's River Road Presbyterian Church and Innsbrook Rotary Club. He and his wife, Kathy, have been married for 19 years and have two daughters, Lindsay, age 15, and Caitlin, age 12.