

Earle Hellen Sports Media Award

Michael Williams

Host of The 19th Hole Golf Radio Show on CBS Radio
Washington, D.C.

Michael Williams, the 2014 Earle Hellen Sports Media Award Recipient, has been involved in golf in the mid-Atlantic region for over 20 years. He's one of the most charismatic radio personalities in D.C. and continues to be a tremendous supporter of PGA Professionals and the MAPGA. His radio show "The 19th Hole" has a regular spot on Saturday mornings on CBS Radio's 106.7 The Fan.

Born in Washington, D.C. to Thomas and Virginia Williams, Michael grew up the younger brother of Thomas and the older brother of Ron and Carol. He has lived in or visited over 40 countries but has a special appreciation for his native city. A graduate of The Sidwell Friends School and the first African-American male to attend the prestigious school from Kindergarten through High School, Michael continued his education the University of Maryland at College Park where he majored in English Literature.

Michael has a reputation as a savvy broadcaster and as an incisive interviewer and writer. An avid golfer himself, Michael has covered the game of golf and the golf lifestyle including courses, restaurants, travel and sports marketing for publications all over the world. A sought-after speaker and panel moderator, Michael has recently launched a new partnership with The O Team to create original golf-themed programming and events.

Michael has had success in industries ranging from high tech companies to foreign exchange banking, yet his life has been defined by his abilities in front of the camera and for his love of the game of golf. In Hong Kong, Michael was selected as an anchor for an Asia-based cable news network project. He also became a sought-after voiceover talent with clients including Ford Motors.

Michael started to play golf in 2000, shortly after the passing of his brother Thomas. Shortly after that, he joined the staff of *Pros and Hackers* magazine to help them grow. In 2003, Michael became Director of Marketing and Communications for Golf Course Specialists, Inc., the largest golf course operator for the National Park System (NPS). In this role, Michael was responsible for the three NPS golf courses in Washington, D.C. He was tasked with connecting the playing public to the game, and in that capacity he was involved with the conception and implementation of such groundbreaking national programs as Patriot Golf Day, Play Golf America Day and Women's Golf Week/Month.

Michael is currently working with a wide range of outlets in traditional and electronic media. In his first year as host of "The 19th Hole Golf Radio Show" on CBS Radio in Washington, D.C., he led the show to become a top-rated golf show in the 7th largest market in the United States. He also produced and hosted "Sticks and Stones" on the Fox Radio network, a critically acclaimed show that combined coverage of the golf world with interviews of the Washington power elite. That and his television work on Newschannel8's "Capital Golf Weekly" as Contributing Editor for the last eight years and as a correspondent on "SportsTalk" have established him as one of the area's most trusted sources for golf and other sports reporting. In addition, Michael has established a national following with his writing for GolfWRX.com, a subsidiary of Golf Digest that caters to the true golf enthusiast.

Michael's mentors in broadcasting are Dave Lucas, Glenn Harris, Doc Walker and John Thompson. All of them recognized his passion for broadcasting and for golf, and they allowed him the opportunity to share that passion with their audiences when he was an unknown entity. Michael considers Dave Lucas to be more of a brother to him. Dave helped Michael through a challenging time when he suffered a stroke in 2007 and gave him his first opportunity to come back on the air with NewsChannel 8's "Capital Golf Weekly."

A supporter of important causes, Michael also contributes to a wide range of charitable organizations with an emphasis on protection for abused women and children, heart and vascular disease, and career development for the formerly incarcerated. Michael is also a member of the United States Golf Association and the Golf Writers Association of America.

Michael resides in the Greater D.C. area and states that his day-to-day inspiration is his 21 year old son Luc. He enjoys that his parents and siblings live nearby along with his seven nieces and nephews.