

## ***TEACHER & COACH OF THE YEAR***

*This award bestows special recognition on a PGA Professional for excellence in golf instruction along with overall distinguished performance as a PGA Professional.*

### ***Patrick J. Bedingfield, PGA***

*Bethesda Country Club*

*Bethesda, Maryland*

Patrick J. Bedingfield was born December 19, 1977, in Silver Spring, Maryland. Patrick comes from a family of avid golfers including his father Dr. James Bedingfield, brother David, and twin sister Andrea, who was a nationally ranked junior golfer. His father introduced him to the game of golf at three years old in the backyard, a roughly designed par 3 golf course with one green which was cut to half an inch high grass. He then began playing at Argyle Country Club in 1983. Patrick's father had a tremendous influence on his decision to play golf. Dr. Bedingfield loves golf, became a student of golf while trying to improve his own game, and his work ethic and passion for the sport inspired Patrick's desire to pursue golf.

His first job in the industry was in 1990 at Argyle Country Club under PGA Professional, Robert Bilbo. He worked in the cart barn, range, and bag room. Patrick became a golf professional on his eighteenth birthday in 1995 and was elected to PGA membership in 2002. He served in Assistant Professional roles at Argyle CC, Montgomery CC, and Bethesda CC before becoming the Director of Instruction at Bethesda CC, the role he serves in today. Since 2015, Patrick has also volunteered as an assistant Coach for the University of Maryland Women's Golf Team.

Professionally, he has had two excellent mentors, Robert Bilbo, PGA and MAPGA Hall of Famer Jim Folks, PGA. He considers them both to be like second fathers and most of all tries to emulate their professionalism.

Patrick has grown his teaching/coaching, club fitting and repair business significantly at Bethesda CC. He is known for his quality and quantity of work at the club, teaching around 2200 paid lessons a year. As a club professional, he spends the majority of his time teaching the average club player, juniors and beginners. However, he also enjoys working with elite amateurs and professionals. In 2020, he coached nine different players to state championships such as Juniors, Men's & Women's Amateurs, and Senior Men's Amateur.

He prides himself in being an early adopter to incorporating technology into his golf instruction. Patrick was one of the first to leverage Trackman in his golf instruction and has since incorporated other technologies including Science and Motion Putt Lab, Swing Catalyst 3 Motion Plate and Gears for Golf 3D capture system. By funding this technology, he has demonstrated his personal commitment to making his lessons the most efficient and effective for his students.

This is Patrick's second MAPGA award. In 2005, he was named MAPGA Assistant Professional of the Year. He has also been listed as one of Golf Digest's Top Teachers in the state since 2013.