

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).

Mike Morrone, PGA
Emergency 9 Golf Podcast/ The Foundry Golf Club
Powhatan, Virginia

Mike Morrone was born on September 13, 1984 in Massachusetts to Paul and Maureen Morrone. His entire family, including sister Elizabeth Hill and brother Anthony Morrone were all big sports fans, especially Boston sports. He began playing golf at the age of six after he was introduced to the game by his father, who frequently played at a municipal golf course in Worcester, MA named Green Hill. Mike would walk the course with his dad at a very young age, even before he could play himself and he fell in love with it.

His first job in the golf industry was as a caddie at the International Golf Club at the age of 14, before he landed a job as an outside attendant at Sterling Country Club. Mike's high school team became state champions, and the team was recently inducted into his high school's athletic Hall of Fame. Bucky Buchanan was the first head professional he worked for at Sterling CC and he counts him amongst his mentors in the industry having modeled a lot of his professional style after him.

Morrone graduated from the PGM Program at Clemson University in 2007 and was elected into PGA Membership in 2008. While at Clemson, Mike was able to intern under some of the best golf professionals in the industry at Bandon Dunes, Muirfield Village and The Country Club in Brookline, MA. These experiences helped Mike gain invaluable knowledge and play a big role in shaping him as the professional he is today. In addition to his internships, he worked briefly at GOLFTec- Richmond before joining the staff at The Foundry Golf Club as an Assistant PGA Professional in 2009. In 2014, he was promoted to his current role at the club as Head PGA Professional.

He credits his dad and family for playing a big role in starting the Emergency 9 Golf podcast as well. Since Boston sports were so big for them, it was all they talked about. Having such a love of golf, sports, and sports talk is why he started the podcast with some close friends in the golf industry.

Morrone is joined on the Emergency 9 Golf podcast by his co-hosts McLean Boyd and Jay Woodson. Boyd is the son of Bob Boyd who was a legendary PGA Professional in the Carolinas Section (and briefly the Middle Atlantic Section) and is a master fitter with a major club manufacturer. Woodson is a former tour professional and four-time

winner of the State Open of Virginia. He was a contestant on the Big Break and winner of the Big Break Invitational.

Morrone is married to his high school sweetheart Lyndi and they have two daughters Isabella (10) and Emilia (6).