



Feature a Teacher

Profile Questions

1. When did you become LPGA certified? Was this your first career choice? If not, what did you do before you started teaching golf?

I became LPGA teaching certified in September of 2008. No, My first career choice was to play on the LPGA tour.

2. Did you (do you) have aspirations to play the Tour? Qualify for any Tour events?

Yes, I qualified for the LPGA Tour in 1987 and retired from the LPGA in 2004. I am now a member of the LPGA Senior Legends Tour.

3. Why golf? Did you play any other sports in school or growing up?

I played many sports before I started to play golf. They included basketball, skiing, softball, competitive swimming, and track. My parents played a lot of golf and following an injury that took me away from swimming competition. I took up golf and truly loved it and everything about it! I was 14 years old.

4. Who has influenced your golf career the most?

During my golf career there have been many different people that had directly and indirectly influenced my golf career. At the top of my list are my parents (who are accomplished golfers) who provided unlimited support as my golf game and career developed.

5. How would your students describe you?

I think the primary two adjectives my students would use to describe me would be "patient and caring" I think they see what I feel, and that is that I truly love to teach golf!

6. What are you most often asked by your students? What do amateurs seem to always struggle with?

In one form or the other, they ask: "How can I reduce the frustration of this game?" "How can I perfect this game?"

I think the 3 things that amateurs struggle with in this order are: grip, alignment and posture.

7. What is your approach to the advanced player who wants to shoot lower scores?

My approach with an advanced player is to first check his/her fundamentals. After this, I will emphasize work on the short game from 100 yards and in. This includes a lot of work in putting. I will teach them to manage their distance control with their wedge game and putting game, tempo and rhythm of their swing and putting stroke. I also will help them develop the ability to shape their shots with good distance control.

8. If you could change one thing about the game of golf today, what would it be?

I can't think of anything I would change right now. I love the game, I think the rules are fair and the handicap system equalizes the competition.

9. Do you have all the rules memorized? What is the craziest ruling you've ever seen in action or been involved in?

Because I played on tour for 17 years and think I have a thorough understanding of the rules. The USGA makes changes every year, but I try to keep up with the changes because I think knowing the rules is an advantage to the player.

The only crazy ruling that comes to mind is when 6 people were allowed to move a "loose impediment" for Tiger Woods at the Phoenix Open a few years ago. Now the rules have been changed.

10. Where do you begin with someone who has never touched a club?

I like to get to know them reassure them the game is fun and challenging, but not intimidating. As far as specific teachings I start with the basic fundamentals, including but not limited to: the dynamics of golf (how the golf club interacts with golf ball) and how the club can be use to advance the ball towards the target. The basics of the grip, posture, alignment, ball position and so forth.

11. Think about your favorite student. What is it that you like best about this golfer?

The enthusiasm and passion this golfer has toward learning how to play and be proficient in the game of golf. Additionally, this student is receptive to learning new skill techniques.

12. Describe your perfect day.

A perfect day is living with and being with people that I love and care about and doing whatever! To be perfect the day has to end with ICE CREAM!

13. Recommend a women-friendly golf course in any state. Why go there?

LaCosta Resort and Spa, Why? The staff is very friendly and they have all the amenities for the women to enjoy before, during and after golf!

14. What is the best piece of advice you have ever been given?

Two pieces of advice head the list:

FIRST: is to spend extra time practicing the weakest part of your game, because we are only as strong as our weakest shot!

SECOND: is to play within yourself and take what you have any time and go play. i.e. trust yourself and your decisions (which also has helped me in the rest of my life).

15. If you had to start a conversation that did not revolve around golf, where would you begin?

I have a wonderful family! I love to talk about my family and my two daughters, (Sarah and Heidi). And I love to hear about what others are doing with their families, children and their spouses.