



MSGA Newsletter

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Holiday, Lee Earn Rocky Mountain PGA Section Honors

Courtesy Rocky Mountain PGA

Mark Holiday



PGA Professional Mark Holiday of Bozeman, Montana, has been selected by the Rocky Mountain Section PGA as the 2017 recipient of the Player Development Award. Holiday, a Quarter Century member of The PGA of America, has been honored as such to recognize his extraordinary contributions and achievements in the area of Player Development. This award considers the Professional's "growth of the game" leadership commitment at Section and National levels and the impact made at his/her own facility.

As the PGA Director of Golf at Bridger Creek Golf Course in Bozeman, Mark continues to work tirelessly to promote the game of golf. He has been the chairman of the Growth of the Game Task Force for the Section the last 10 years and continues to vigorously champion PGA of America Growth of the Game initiatives. Mark and his staff also run comprehensive adult group lesson programs including novice and family fun nights. Nike camps for children have been a part of the Bridger Creek growth of the game culture for 17 years and continue to complement the multi-tiered Bridger Creek Junior Academy. Holiday and his staff continue to lead the way welcoming women, children, and men of all ages to learn the game.

In addition to his National Player Development Award honor in 2012, this marks the 10th time Holiday will be recognized as an award winner within the Section. Holiday will be formally recognized as the 2017 Rocky Mountain Section PGA Player Development Award winner in May of 2018, during the Rocky Mountain Section PGA Annual Meeting and Honors & Awards ceremony.

Renzi Lee



Lake Hills head golf professional Renzi Lee has been named the recipient of the 2017 Youth Player Development Award in the Rocky Mountain Section PGA. Lee was elected to membership in the PGA of America just last year and has not wasted any time in making an impact on junior golf.

The Youth Player Development Award bestows special recognition upon a PGA Professional who has displayed extraordinary and exemplary contribution and achievement in this field. Lee's career path is dedicated greatly to the advancement and development of junior players. His philosophy focuses on the developmental cycle of people and their enjoyment in the game. Lee believes the younger any person starts enjoying the game, the more likely they are to play for a lifetime, and he's not afraid to say that theory is good for the game of golf and the golf business.

Lee was part of the First Tee program earlier in his career and used that experience to see the value in the PGA of America's PGA Jr. League initiative. He feels PGA Jr. League is the perfect bridge for the younger children that come out of the First Tee to hone their competitive skills before going on to High School golf and beyond. All of this fits in perfectly with Lee's above mentioned philosophy. *...Continued next page*

PGA HONORS ... from previous page

Combining fun with practice and play requires some creativity. Lee has embraced this aspect of life and uses what he calls a Game Board and a Practice Sheet, which encourages the kids in his junior program to practice and bring their parents along to play. There are 50 squares on his Game Board and different tasks to perform to get squares checked off and earn prizes. Some of those tasks involve parents, which is certainly good for business.

The 2017 Youth Player Development Award marks the first time Lee has earned a Section honor. He will be presented with the 2017 RMSPGA Youth Player Development Award in May at the Section Annual Meeting & Awards Presentation.



PLEASE HELP OUR JUNIORS!

ALL proceeds go to support **Junior golf programs** in Montana! Go to www.msgagolf.org/raffle-fund-raiser for more information.

Get your ticket today! Thanks for your support!



Congratulations to our NEWEST WINNERS!

DECEMBER'S DRAWING:

Victoria, British Columbia - Jim Ausk, Billings
\$200 cash - Spencer Williams, Helena

**** JANUARY'S TRIP is to Las Vegas, Nevada ****

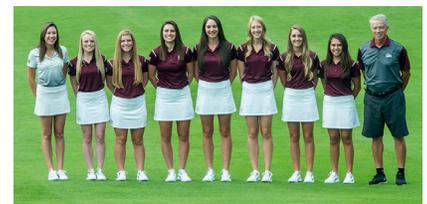
University of Montana Names Kris Nord Head Golf Coach

Nick Dietzen, MSGA Communications Director



Kris Nord, the University of Montana's interim women's golf coach, had the interim label removed as Nord agreed to become the Grizzlies head coach.

Nord has over thirty years of experience coaching at Montana in another sport – tennis. He also has golf coaching experience at UM; in fact, he was the program's first coach in 1993. Nord served in that capacity for three years. He has extensive court sport experience at UM having served since 1986 as head tennis coach of the men's team and was the women's tennis coach until 2006, when the program hired its first full-time women's coach.



U of M Women's Golf Team (Nord, far right)

This fall, the Grizzlies competed in four fall tournaments, finishing twice in the top five, and four times in the top 10. Hailey Hoagland, originally of Butte, finished the fall with a team-best stroke average of 76.4. Montana finished the fall with a team stroke average of 309.8, the best for the program since 2014-15.

The Grizzlies' spring season begins in mid-February at the Battle at the Rock in Riverside, California. The Big Sky Championship will be contested April 20-22 at Boulder City, Nevada.

Matt Stricker Named University of North Dakota Head Coach

Nick Dietzen, MSGA Communications Director

Matt Stricker is a name familiar to golfers in the Magic City. Stricker spent 15 years in Billings as an assistant professional, but now will turn attention to coaching the University of North Dakota Men's Golf Team.

Stricker worked at the Exchange City Golf Course from 2002-2015, then moved to Yegen Golf Club for the 2015-2016 seasons. He moves from Manvel to Grand Forks, North Dakota, to lead the Fighting Hawks squad.



Matt Stricker (right)

Stricker is not new to coaching, but he is at the collegiate level. Stricker played collegiately at Rocky Mountain College and, during his time in Billings, he coached the Billings Central High School team from 2012-2014. Stricker led the boys' team to a pair of state tournament appearances and a runner-up finish at the Class A State Tournament in his final season. ...Continued next page

STRICKER ... from previous page

While at Billings Central, Stricker had seven golfers earn all-state honors and two players from his boys' team moved on to play collegiately in the NCAA Division I ranks.



Stricker most recently was serving as the general manager at Whispering Oaks Golf Club in Manvel, North Dakota. Things heat up soon for the Fighting Hawks, as the 2017-18 season resumes at the Pizza Hut Pat Hicks Invitational on February 12-13 in St. George, Utah.

University of North Dakota will play in five spring tournaments this year.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

WHAT IS MONTANA'S OFFICIAL GOLF SEASON?

The official Golf Season for the Montana State Golf Association runs from April 1 to October 31. Scores played in Montana during the off-season are shown in red (if posted) and not calculated in the official handicap index.

SHOULD I POST OUT-OF-STATE SCORES?

If the Association where you played is officially in-season, the score is valid and should be posted to your Montana record.

WHEN ARE THE HANDICAP REVISIONS?

Handicap Revisions are issued the 1st and 15th of each month, year round. This accommodates those posting scores out of state where it is in-season.

HOW DO I RECEIVE A HANDICAP REVISION BY E-MAIL?

To receive an e-revision, log in to the online handicap system at www.msgagolf.org. Click on Profile, then Edit Profile, and enter your e-mail address in that field. Next, click on the Account Settings tab, and be sure the box next to "E-mail notifications" is checked. Be sure to save any changes.

CAN I LINK MY OUT-OF-STATE MEMBERSHIP TO MY MSGA MEMBERSHIP?

Yes. The MSGA can link to most associations via the International Golf Network (IGN). Use the contact form at www.msgagolf.org/contact for your request, and be sure to include your name, association, and member # you are linking to. Once linked, scores posted at either location will be routed back to the other membership.

HOW DO I LOG IN TO THE ONLINE HANDICAP SYSTEM?

If this is the first time you have logged in, your User Name is your Network #, and your Password is montana (all lower case). Once logged in, you will be prompted to change this information. If you have forgotten your User Name and/or Password, please [contact us](#) and we would be glad to help you.

HOW DO I GET THE MSGA SMARTPHONE APP?

The Smartphone app is available in the Apple and Android stores, listed under "MONTANA STATE GOLF ASSOCIATION". The MSGA app is provided at no additional charge to you, as a membership benefit. You will need your username and password to log in. If you do not know this information, please [contact us](#). We recommend first logging into the online handicap system at www.msgagolf.org to change your temporary login information (if you are a first-time user) and update your Member Profile. Then, log in to the Smartphone App using the new username and password.

DO I HAVE TO ENTER HOLE-BY-HOLE SCORES WITH THE SMARTPHONE APP?

No. The default is Total Score (TS). If you would like to post hole-by-hole score information, go to the settings icon at the top right of the screen, and change it to Hole-by-Hole (HBH).

For answers to more frequently asked questions, go to www.msgagolf.org/golfer-faq.

Montana's Official Golf Season: April 1 to October 31

Off-season scores played in Montana should not be posted. Scores played where it is in-season are valid and should be posted, via the online handicap system, smartphone app, or membership linking.

NEWSLETTER ARCHIVE



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