

## **Gary Wiren PhD Bio**

TEACHER, PLAYER, ADMINISTRATOR, GOLF BUSINESS OWNER, FOUNDER, INVENTOR, DIRECTOR, DESIGNER, COLLECTOR, AUTHOR, SPEAKER, ENTERTAINER, & HISTORIAN

### **FOUNDER/CREATOR**

PGA/USGA Rules Workshops... Still offered after 38 years and having the biggest influence on golf officiating in history.

PGA Professional Golf Management (PGM) program; (co-founder) at Ferris State University. Now at 17 universities in the U.S.

PGA RECERTIFICATION PROGRAM (1974) Requiring all professionals to pursue continued education for membership.

PGA'S BILL STRAUSBAUGH AWARD to recognize service to the game, the PGA Association and to fellow professionals.

THREE DAY LEARNING WORKSHOPS FOR THE PGA on RULES (ABOVE)...CLUB

REPAIR...TEACHING GOLF AROUND THE WORLD the teaching and training aids company providing learning aids to assist the teacher and pupil in acquiring the skills for playing enjoyable golf.

GOLF COLLECTORS' SOCIETY (#19 of first 25 founding members) which has had 8,700 members over the years.

### **TEACHING AND LEARNING**

PGA JUNIOR GOLF ACADEMY...The first international junior golf camp program in the world to be based on VALUES (1970'S) Our motto: *"We train future leaders through golf."*

LAWS PRINCIPLES AND PREFERENCES A golf teaching model presenting the priorities for the teacher to present to the learner.

FOUNDED ONE OF THE LARGEST LOCAL GOLF ACADEMIES IN AMERICA IN EUGENE, OREGON...Five one-hour classes a day with 20 pupils per session over a ten-year period...1962-72

GAVE TEACHING SEMINARS OR TALKS AT 39 OF THE 41 PGA SECTIONS... OVER A 13 YEAR PERIOD WHILE AT PGA

TAUGHT GOLF IN JAPAN FOR 17 YEARS...Visiting for four or more weeks a year and serving as Guest Consultant to MIZUNO GOLF SCHOOLS (102 sites) the largest in the world, and had a Golf TV show for 2 1/2 years

Founded, Directed and Taught PGA GOLF DISCOVERY SCHOOLS 1982-84

Developed and taught FIVE-STAR GOLF SCHOOL, in Boca Raton at the famous Boca Hotel. (1986-87)

Chairman Jr. Golf Academy Canada for six years

Consultant coach for Italian Golf Federation 1988-91

Gave coaching sessions to the national golf teams or clinics to the teaching professionals of: New Zealand, Australia, China, Japan, Canada, U.K., France, The Netherlands, The Czech Republic, Germany, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Spain. Italy and Austria...plus military clinics to our Army, Navy and Marines and to eight of the PGM schools.

In 2003, was the first PGA Professional to teach a class at the world-famous Chautauqua Institute, the summer learning program founded in 1874.

## **RECOGNITION, HONORS, AND AWARDS**

Selected as the Keynote Speaker at the First International Scientific Congress of Golf at St. Andrews University in 1900.

PGA Teacher of the Year 1987 the second ever after Manuel de la Torre, the first in 1986.

PGA HALL OF FAME 2007, WORLD GOLF TEACHERS' HALL OF FAME 2008; also, a member of seven other state or section halls.

Winner of the Joe Graffis National Golf Foundation Award, for "Contributions to the Game of Golf," selected along with Arnold Palmer in 1978.

Awarded the National Golf Course Owners Association Award of Merit in 1993. *"Given for long-term and significant contributions to the game of golf."*

Winner of the LPGA Wind Under Wings Award awarded for "Contributions to the instruction of golf." (1999)

Selected as the Ellen Griffin Award winner in 2000. *"Which recognizes an individual, male or female, who has made a major contribution to the teaching of golf and who emulates Griffin's spirit, love and dedication to students, teachers, teaching skills and the game of golf."*

Received an honorary doctorate from Ferris State University for his role in establishing the Professional Golf Management program.

Is an Honorary Member of the New Zealand PGA with awards of recognition from the Italian Golf Federation and the Swedish Golf Union.

In 2014 the British publication The Annual Review of Golf Coaching that covers the scientific work on the game's teaching and coaching and how to improve it carried a 23-page article by Dr. Simon Jenkins of Leeds University entitled The Contributions of Dr. Gary Wiren to the Instruction of Golf.

## **WRITING AND AUDIO-VISUAL**

Authored the PGA TEACHING MANUAL, (1990) *"History's most influential text on the art and science of teaching the game."*

Wrote a doctoral dissertation in 1971 for a PhD at the University of Oregon entitled: *The Human Factors Influencing the Golf Drive for Distance.*

Has written fourteen golf books for national publication: THE NEW GOLF MIND was on the mental side; SUPER POWER GOLF was on the physical, while others focused on the many aspects of the game. WHEN GOLF IS A BALL won "Golf Book of the Year" in 2004 while covering entertaining and interesting tales.

Has written over 300 published articles for a variety of magazines: while also serving as the instruction editor for Score magazine in the U.S. and FORE in Canada and plus having written for GOLF DIGEST, GOLF MAGAZINE, USGA JOURNAL, PGA MAGAZINE, EXECUTIVE GOLFER, GOLFWEEK, GOLF WORLD, FLORIDA GOLF, IGR, and several others in JAPAN, plus Svensk Golf in Sweden and magazines in Holland and India.

In 1976 Wiren directed a promotional movie for the PGA, Teacher Player Planner to promote the varied tasks that a PGA professional must perform.

He created several instructional videos and tapes including How to Play Your Best Golf, The Greater Golfer in You, Secrets to Power Golf and Great Golf Drills.

## **PLAYING**

Wiren grew up in Omaha, NE playing at Spring Lake Park, an 1,827 yd par 33 muni course that had no bunkers, no water hazards, no rough, no practice putting green or range, and no watered fairways. But it did have nine 4 1/4 inch cups and therein lies the challenge. He was ALL STATE in NEBRASKA, ALL CONFERENCE in college in SOUTH DAKOTA.

After that he married and with four children (one handicapped) he found only limited time to compete, that, primarily as a senior. Nonetheless, did the following: Finished in the top ten on a Japanese Sr. Tour event, won two one-day winter events with scores of 66, and won the World Hickory Championship in 1978; played in two PGA Sr. Championships, and one Sr. Tour and one European Tour event.

Nonetheless, Wiren won the S. Florida Sr. title and played in the U.S. Sr. Open in Pinehurst and set a record by making the cut (though having a famous caddie) he carried his own bag for 72 holes as a statement for fitness.

Possibly Wiren's most impressive golf feat was winning the SOUTH FLORIDA LONG DRIVE CHAMPIONSHIP. With 53 contestants, competing on a flat opening par 5 hole at PGA National's Squire Course, he hit a drive 381 yds. 1 ft. with a wooden headed driver (not wind aided) and won by fifty yards, a record between 1sts. and 2nd.

Wiren has played in a considerable number of golf charity fund raising events over the years. The most successful was his ten-year appearance at the Warren Buffet Charity Event in Omaha, Nebraska where he annually gave an entertaining/educational clinic and later played with participants. The amount raised in those ten days was \$10,000,000 for children's charities in the city

## **SUMMARY**

A summary of Dr. Gary Wiren's work: "Few people have had as much influence on so many aspects of the game." Considering the breadth of Wiren's involvement as a teacher, researcher, administrator, speaker, historian, performer, player, coach, inventor, business owner, writer, editor, collector, fitness proponent, founder, and TV personality he certainly could be titled, as many have considered him, "Golf's Renaissance Man".