

2023 Special Awards Candidate Bio Form

Please send this form back no later Friday, October 21, 2022.

If you were nominated for more than one award you must **submit a bio form for each award.**

Email *

ryan@kentcountryclub.com

Name of Nominee: *

Ryan Bayer

Award Nominated for: *

Assistant Golf Professional of the Year

Facility Employed at: *

Kent Country Club

Year Elected to Membership: *

2019

Please describe your achievements/accomplishments that would pertain to this award. *

To start, I would like to thank anyone who nominated me for the 2022 Assistant Golf Professional of the Year award. As a young professional it means a lot to me to get nominated for the fourth year in a row now. I truly appreciate that my hard work is being recognized. Now that we have finally started to turn the corner and away from Covid now is the best time to start getting creative and trying to capture as many golfers as we can to bring to our great game.

Being at the same club for the last four seasons has shown me that if you put your time and effort into something that it will start to pay dividends. My first season was very much a learning experience, just trying to take in as much information as I could from the then current First Assistant Golf Professional, Jimmy Wisinski, who that season won the 2019 Assistant Golf Professional of the Year award. Much like a backup quarterback trying to learn under the savvy veteran. Fast forward a few years where I have now become the First Assistant Golf Professional here at Kent Country Club it has become a dream job where I have been able to develop all of my skills to their fullest potential.

One aspect I am truly grateful for about working at Kent Country Club is the opportunity to play. I have always held playing the game of golf as the most important skill any golf professional can have. Being able to entertain members and guests on the course has shown an increase in usage of the club. These member's who I have been able to play with take more lessons, play more golf, and spend more money in the shop. I have been fortunate to have some strong finishes the last few years playing as well finishing third at the Assistant's Championship, T-27th at the Section Championship, as well as winning the Fall Pro-Scratch. We not only encourage the golf professionals to play, but it has become expected here, and the support from the member's when we play well makes all of the hard work worth it.

The largest area of improvement for me has been teaching by far. Lessons my first three season were limited to mainly junior's and those who wanted a quick thirty minutes when Jimmy, our Director of Instruction, was unavailable. This season I have seen an increase of 400% in my lessons given. And have made more total dollars than my first three years combined. Not only with the hourly lessons, but I have done twice the number of clinics, and have created a leadership role with junior golf and PGA Junior League as well. I have a true passion for teaching junior golfers. My main focus is to make sure they are having fun first and foremost, after that I have been able to determine what they really want to get out of golf and can teach them from there. This passion stems from my ideology as a golf professional. My perception is that I want everyone to enjoy the game of golf as much as I have. Golf has brought me countless friendships and memories that I can take with me for the rest of my life. I can set out to help other people attain these same friendships and memories. And, in the end, I have learned that there is much more to golf than just swinging the golf club.

All strong assistant golf professionals have a core group of mentors that they are able to lean on and help them learn. My father will always be my biggest mentor, with him being a fellow PGA professional there is no question or scenario that he has not been able to help me with. From being able to send him a swing video to help me with my swing to being able to put a budget together. He has all of the answers. I am fortunate to be able to work with a few of my mentor's as well. Jimmy Wisinski and Matt Swan have truly molded me into the golf professional that I have become. There is nothing I have ever felt uncomfortable asking. Their mentorship and friendships for my first job out of school will be something that I can take with me for the rest of my life.

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