

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 *

jabbergolf@aol.com

Name of Nominee: *

Dean Marks

Award Nominated for: *

Golf Executive of the Year

Facility Employed at: *

Milham Park Golf Club

Year Elected to Membership: *

1997

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

The Golf Executive of the Year Award is a very prestigious award and I am honored to be considered for it. I have been a PGA Member for 25 years but have been in the golf business since my parents built a golf course 49 years ago when I was 3 years old.

I have always been passionate about sharing the game I love with everyone I can. I have run a junior golf program for over 20 years that averages 350 participants a year. I coached a college women's golf team for 17 years. I have been the Director of Golf the last 10 years for the 3 golf courses owned by the City of Kalamazoo. I have advocated for having a First Tee program in Kalamazoo and after many years, became a satellite location to the First Tee West Michigan chapter in spring of 2021. I have taught veterans at the VA Hospital in Battle Creek through the PGA HOPE program since 2013. I had the 17th largest PGA Jr League program in the country with 117 participants in 2020 and was selected to host a 2022 PGA Jr League Regional in 2022. I have hosted 3 Drive, Chip & Putt local qualifiers. And because I didn't have enough on my plate, I purchased Olde Mill Golf Course in 2020 with the intention of improving the course conditions while keeping the prices affordable.

I strive to provide the best golfing experiences at affordable rates, whether it's the \$5 for 9 holes I charge at our Red Arrow Golf Course, or the \$70 I charge in my junior golf program for either 6 weeks of instruction or to play in 5 tournaments. I even ran a 3-year membership special at Olde Mill for \$49 per year that acquired over 2100 new members. I feel I have a strong network of mentors and have 21 different facilities who donate playing time for my junior programs. I hire PGA professionals at all of my facilities and encourage them to participate in as many community events as possible. I feel that whatever I can give back is minor considering what the game of golf has given to me over the years.

Thank you for taking the time to read about some of my highlights.

- PGA Certified Professional in Instruction 2009
- Michigan PGA Junior Golf Leader award 2007, 2012
- Michigan PGA Player Development award 2017
- TPI Certified Level 2 Junior Coach 2010
- US Kids Golf Top 50 Kids Teacher 2008, 2009, 2010
- US Kids Golf Master Kids Teacher 2011
- US Kids Golf Certified Coach 2012
- US Kids Golf Certified Coach Level 2 2018
- Kalamazoo College Women's Golf Coach 2003-2020
- First Tee Level 1 Coach 2016
- USGA Rules of Golf Advanced Certification 2019

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