

2025 Golf Professional of the Year Award Candidate Bio Form

Email:

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Name of Nominee:

David Kendall

Facility Employed at:

Washtenaw Golf Club

Year Elected to Membership:

1981

Please describe your overall performance as a Golf Professional:

I attended Ferris State University, the first year of the first Professional Golf Management Program. On April 1, 1981 I became one of 2 to become the first Class A1 PGA Members from a PGM Program, when I became the Head Professional at Cadillac Country Club. Upon leaving Cadillac CC, at the end of 1996, my wife and I were honored with an Honorary Lifetime Membership. We loved our time in Cadillac.

In 1997, I founded the Kendall Academy of Golf at Miles of Golf, in the Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti area. KA grew from 2 Coaches and \$80k in Lesson Sales the first year, to 10 Coaches, including 6 PGA Members today. I believed that my most important responsibility to the KA Coaches was to create an environment that made it possible for them to help their students to exceed their goals as a player. This allowed our Coaches to help their students to create hundreds of success stories. At the end of 2022, I turned over ownership of Kendall Academy of Golf to Patrick Wilkes-Krier, PGA. Patrick began his relationship with KA as a Middle School Junior Golfer in 1997.

In January 2020, myself and 2 partners, purchased the historic Washtenaw Golf Club. Washtenaw is located less than a mile from Kendall Academy. We have an arrangement between Washtenaw GC and Kendall Academy that makes play on the Course available to our Coaches and their students. This has made it easier to develop programs that includes play on the Course. The 3rd oldest Club in Michigan, founded in 1899, is now a thriving public Course with a long range plan of renovation and restoration that is ongoing.

I have been honored by Ferris State with their Norm Bennett Award for the PGM student who best exemplifies the qualities of a future PGA Professional, Bill Strausbaugh Award for the advancement Teaching, Don Perne Award, and the FSU Distinguished Alumni Award.

Please describe your service to your Chapter, the Michigan Section and to the PGA of America:

Western Chapter Michigan PGA

- Policy Board 1981

Northern Chapter Michigan PGA

- Junior Golf Chairman 1982 - 83
- Chapter Secretary 1984 - 85
- Chapter Tournament Chairman 1986 - 87
- Chapter President 1988 - 89
- Chapter President 1994 - 95

Michigan Section PGA

- Education Committee Chairman
- Special Awards Chairman
- Tournament Committee Member 1998 - 2001
- Tournament Committee Chairman 2002 - 03
- Member Section Board of Directors 23 years
- Section Secretary 2004 - 05
- Section Vice President 2006 - 07
- Section President 2008 - 09
- Section Honorary President 2010 - 11

Michigan PGA Seniors Organization

- Secretary 2007 - 08
- Vice President 2009 - 10
- President 2011 - 12

PGA of America

- Tournament Committee Task Force
- Winter Program Tournament Committee
- Tournament Committee 2008 - 2012

Please describe your leadership ability and how you inspire other golf professionals:

Because I feel uncomfortable judging my affect on others, I asked some of our Kendall Academy Coaches for their thoughts:

Kendall Academy Owner, Patrick Wilkes-Krier, PGA

Trusting me to continue the work with the Kendall Academy is something I take very seriously. You have also helped me to fall more deeply in love with golf than I ever have been. I love watching you teach, listening to you teach, and to see and hear how it energizes you to share your joy for the game. Seeing how much you love golf validates the feelings I have. You have taught me how to enjoy sharing that with my students. You have single handedly changed the course of my life and I will honor that every day. I love golf. I love teaching golf. I love playing golf. I love thinking about golf. I love that you have given me an opportunity to pursue that at Kendall Academy.

Kendall Academy Coach, Scott Hayes

I met Dave in 1997 while on the University of Michigan Golf Team. Dave was an absolute breath of fresh air. It was immediately recognizable that he cared solely about two things: His student getting better and explaining exactly what was needed to do so which motivated me to work on it. It was exhilarating. It was so inspiring that it made me change my college major from business into a Kinesiology designated degree as I knew that after witnessing first hand what a wonderful teacher Dave was that I wanted to follow his lead and become an instructor myself. Dave cares as much about his teachers as he does about his students. As a teacher I try to always put my student first, pride myself on knowledge and education, and do what I can to model my actions after a great leader who I was lucky enough to find in 1998 an am still inspired by today.

Jim Yuhas, PGA Kendall Academy Coach

Dave Kendall made it possible for me to love the game of golf again.

My first career I was a Firefighter/Paramedic. I took pride in helping others in their time of need. I also loved being part of a Team. I also had a passion for golf.

My golf instructor Paul Haase suggested I choose a career path in golf. With his guidance I did just that. However, I found that the people I worked with and for were not working as a Team. They weren't about helping golfers get better or enhancing their experience on the Course. Six months after becoming a PGA Member, I was considering leaving the business.

Then Dave changed everything. He offered me a position at his Academy. I quickly found I was part of a great Team again. A Team with a priority to help players get more joy out of golf. Bouncing ideas and techniques off each other to help us all offer more to our students. It did not stop there. He renewed my passion for playing. He convinced me to play in more tournaments and I'm glad I took his advice. Not only did it make me a better instructor, I've met a lot of great people along the way.

There are a lot of people that are in love with our game because of Dave, and I am one of them.

Please describe how you grow the game of golf at your facility, in the community and throughout the Michigan Section:

Once I became a Golf Course Owner in 2020, our Course, Washtenaw Golf Club, we made it our business maintain a player development relationship with Kendall Academy/ Miles of Golf, to create a relationship with the Golf Association of Michigan, GAM Youth on Course, make our Course available to Championships and Qualifiers, well below the market price for golf, on a regular basis and to the most well run Junior Tours, such as Callaway/Meijer Tour among them. Washtenaw Golf Club is very well known in GAM, and Junior Golf Tournament circles. We are also a frequent host of Michigan PGA Junior and Member events, whenever asked.

I have been on the Board of Directors of an Organization called Golf Links Detroit, for the past several years. One of its missions is to help inner city youth to develop life skills and health education through golf. We are starting a relationship with Detroit Public Schools to eventually help develop golf teams in the Detroit High Schools. Another Program is to create an opportunity for worthy inner city youth to have a way to access a career in golf through Michigan State University's School of Agronomy and Ferris State University's Professional Golf Management Program. The details are still being developed, but are well on the way.

List any other PGA Section or National Awards you've received and the year(s) you received them:

- Michigan PGA Golf Professional of the Year 1991 & 2006
- Michigan PGA Teacher of the Year 2000 & 2004
- Michigan PGA Senior Player of the Year 2007
- Michigan PGA Professional Development Award 2010
- Michigan PGA Hall of Fame 2013

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Kendall, PGA