



PGA

Nebraska Section

IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 19, 2018

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Dennis Fruchtl, PGA, Head Professional of Riverside Golf Club Named 2017 Nebraska Section PGA “Golf Professional of the Year”



LINCOLN, Neb.—Dennis Fruchtl, PGA, Head Professional at Riverside Golf Club in Grand Island, NE was selected for the Section’s highest honor bestowed on a PGA Member as the *2017 Nebraska Section PGA Golf Professional of the Year*. Fruchtl was elected to membership into the PGA of America in April of 1992.

A graduate of Grand Island Senior High in 1983, Fruchtl’s passion and love for the game of golf was evident as he was a three-year letterman in golf. Fruchtl took these golf skills to Hastings College, Hastings, NE where he received a B.A. in Business Administration in Economics and was a four-year letterman. Fruchtl’s aptitude in the classroom also carried over into his early years in the golf business as he scored near the top of his class on all of

his PGA Business Schools. Under famed PGA Professional, Jack Hoskins, PGA Dennis got his start at Riverside Golf Club as a range and bag-room attendant. After a three-year stint at the Country Club of Colorado, CO home came calling as Fruchtl returned to Riverside Golf Club in 1990 as a PGA Assistant Professional. Fruchtl has always been recognized by his fellow PGA Professionals as being a tremendous club operator and leader within our Association as he was the recipient of the 2000 Assistant Professional of Year Award. In January of 2001, Fruchtl took over as the PGA Head Professional and continued upon the rich tradition of Riverside Golf Club being recognized as one of the top facilities in the state. Fruchtl’s continued passion for growing the game remains as strong as ever as Riverside Golf Club was one of the initial host sites for the Drive, Chip and Putt completion created by and hosted in conjunction with Augusta National, USGA and PGA of America. The Riverside “Stingrays” TEAM Golf team captured the championship in 2015 and is host of one of the largest junior golf programs in the state today. Under Fruchtl’s leadership, he has revitalized the engagement of women playing golf at his club while also running arguably one of the most successful men’s leagues in the Section and a Member/Member event that in 2017 has a waiting list. Fruchtl also has a very successful track-record for operating and hosting some of the most successful Nebraska Amateur Championship and Nebraska Section PGA Professional Championships to date. Fruchtl is known as a tremendous leader and mentor amongst his fellow PGA Professionals. Those who have worked for Fruchtl recognize his attention and upmost professionalism by

all his staff members. This has led to those who worked for Fruchtl reflect highly upon their time at Riverside Golf Club. In fact, one of his former PGA Assistant Professionals, Hank McFarland, PGA is now starting his 13-year at Lochland Country Club, Hastings, NE and long-time PGA Assistant Professional, Kyle Huse is recognized by his peers as one of the top assistants in the region.

In addition to operating a very successful golf operation, Fruchtl has volunteered a considerable amount of his time by serving on the Nebraska Golf Hall Of Fame, Nebraska Section PGA Tournament Committee and growing the game at the junior golf ranks with area high-school golf teams. Fruchtl and the other special award winners and players of the year from 2017 will be recognized on Monday, March 12, 2018 at The Country Club of Lincoln during the special awards portion of this meeting.

The other Nebraska PGA Award Winners for 2017 are:

Golf Professional of the Year: Dennis Fruchtl, PGA, Riverside Golf Club, Grand Island, NE

Teacher of the Year: Chad Lydiatt, PGA, Awarii Dunes Golf Club, Axtell, NE

Horton Smith-Education: Bradley Goetsch, PGA, University of Nebraska, Lincoln PGA Golf Management

Bill Strausbaugh-Club Relations: Chris Thomson, PGA, Wilderness Ridge Golf Club, Lincoln, NE

Youth Player Development: Joe Wiegand, PGA, Benson Park Golf Course, Omaha, NE

Merchandiser of the Year-Public: Matt Shaner, PGA, Golf USA – Kearney, Kearney, NE

Player Development: Chris Thomson, PGA, Wilderness Ridge Golf Club, Lincoln, NE

Merchandiser of the Year-Private: Nathan Kalin, PGA, Fremont Golf Club, Fremont, NE

Facility of the Year: Ashland Golf Club, Ashland, NE

Sales Representative of the Year: Marc Cruse, PGA, Columbia, Mark Your Spot, Vern Waskom Company, Certifresh Cigar Company, OKEsports, Team Effort, Laser Link Golf, Sport Haley – Bette & Court

Assistant Professional of the Year: Karrie Van Ravenswaay, PGA, The Ridge Golf Club, Sioux Center, IA

Patriot Award: Mike Antonio, PGA, Happy Hollow Club, Omaha, NE

In addition to these awards the Nebraska Section PGA would also like to recognize the Players of the Year for 2017:

Nebraska Section PGA Players of the Year for 2017

OMEGA Nebraska PGA Player of the Year: Ryan Vermeer, PGA, Tiburon Golf Club, Omaha, NE

OMEGA Nebraska PGA Senior Player of the Year: Jim White, PGA MP, Lincoln, NE

OMEGA Nebraska Section Apprentice Professional Player of the Year: Justin Herron, Pacific Springs Golf Course, Omaha, NE

**All of the winners will be recognized at the
Nebraska Section PGA Spring Meeting to be held**

Monday, March 12, 2018 at The Country Club of Lincoln, Lincoln, NE.

The Nebraska Section PGA is a non-for-profit organization comprised of approximately 245 PGA Members and 22 Apprentices who strive to promote the enjoyment and growth of the game of golf. Nebraska Section PGA encompasses the entire State of Nebraska, western fifth of Iowa and a small portion of South Dakota including Dakota Dunes and Yankton. The Section office is located in Lincoln, NE and acts as a resource for local and national golf information for the golf professional and amateur player alike. Our members are often referred to as “Club Professionals”, not to be mistaken as PGA Tour Professionals. Each Nebraska Section PGA professional serves as an expert in the ever-changing business of golf. They are the leading expert players and teachers, skilled business managers, community leaders, and superior merchandisers who have dedicated their careers to the local delivery of these services.

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