

## BRAD BIRNIE

Brad Birnie grew up playing golf in Saskatoon and got his first hole-in-one at age thirteen. He won the Saskatchewan Amateur Championship in 1985 and 1986 and was on the Willingdon Cup team three times. He had multiple wins at Waskesiu Lobstick events during this period. He played two years of college golf in Texas and Florida, then turned professional after becoming the first Saskatchewan player to qualify for the modern Canadian Tour. He played on the tour in 1987 and 1988.

Brad spent 14 years as a golf professional at several clubs in New York State. He notched three wins as a professional, coming close to qualifying for PGA Tour events several times. As well, he officiated fifteen times.

Returning to Saskatchewan in 2003, Brad became a teaching professional at The Practice Tee, Brad Birnie Golf Range, Ramada Golf Dome and Moon Lake Golf Club. After achieving certification through the National Coaching Program, he served as the provincial golf coach and Canada Summer Games golf team coach in 2008-09. Twice he received a Teacher of the Year award from PGA of Saskatchewan. He has presented coaching seminars to golf professionals and conducted many Future Links clinics throughout the province.

As a golf coach Brad put his honours degree in psychology from the University of Saskatchewan to good use and initiated some imaginative projects. He created The Practice Team – a group of high-performance juniors who gathered once a week to practice and learn from Brad's experience. Several of these have since become golf professionals. Darren Zary wrote "The Birnie Project" in the StarPhoenix over six summers, describing how golf instruction helped various golfers improve their game.

Two players Brad has mentored, Anna Young and Kade Johnson, give him credit for teaching them to manage their games in pressure situations and always enjoy the game. He taught students to take notes from every lesson to learn exactly what to practice. His students have won 26 provincial titles.

Brad has always set high standards of behavior and etiquette on the golf course, and has been a model of sportsmanship. He organized a fund-raiser for breast cancer research and gave free lessons to support the event.

Brad has also been involved in the sport of squash as a player, coach, referee, executive director of the provincial association and a University of Saskatchewan squash coach. Brad and his wife Sharon and two sons live in Saskatoon.

Congratulations to Brad Birnie on your induction into the Saskatchewan Golf Hall of Fame as a player and for distinguished service.

