

Paul Ryiz Inducted Into the Connecticut Section PGA Professional Hall of Fame

By: Russ Held, November 21, 2016

Like father.

Like son.

And this time in a Hall of Fame kind of way for Ted Pisk and his late father Stan.

The Pisks share a most unique distinction as each is a member of the Class of 2016 to the Connecticut Section PGA Hall of Fame. They are the first father and son to be inducted during the same enshrinement.

They will be joined by Tony Rowe of Ellington Ridge CC, Paul Ryiz of Brownson CC and the late Bob Bodington of Hartford GC at the Hall of Fame & Champions Tribute.

Connecticut Section PGA Executive Director Tom Hantke welcomed each into the Hall of Fame.

“This year’s class of inductees represents a broad cross section of the Connecticut Section PGA’s golf professional heritage, both in terms of generational era and service to the game of golf,” Hantke said. “The Stan and Ted Pisk father to son passing of the torch begins during WWII and spans through the 20th century.

“Bob Bodington was the consummate golf professional of his time during the 1960s and ‘70s, and a leader of the section in the formidable developmental years of the organizations growth, whereas the careers of Tony Rowe and Paul Ryiz represent a parallel of the golf professional’s evolution of as mentor, promoter, statesman, teacher and player.”

The ceremony takes place November 28 at Lake of Isles in North Stonington.

“To be included with the names of Hall of Famers from the past, to be welcomed into that group with my father and his story . . . that means a lot to me,” Pisk said. “And I’ve been involved in the Section in a lot of capacities and I can tell you that this is really something special.”

The father-son combination have been synonymous with Stanley Municipal Golf Course in New Britain, where Stan left an indelible legacy that was carried on by Ted for four more decades.

Stan’s passion to make the game accessible, affordable and playable to those less fortunate helped grow that game within the Section and beyond. It was through his hard work and dedication that the city of New Britain made the commitment to add nine holes to Stanley’s 18-hole facility.

Stan’s roots in golf began as a caddie and his professional journey included an assistant pro opportunity at GC of Avon, a head pro spot at Chippanee CC in Bristol and coaching at the high school level before he settled in at Stanley. He served there from 1942 until his unexpected death at age 46 in 1961.

Ted speaks with great pride about his father, a front-line combat soldier who helped liberate the town of Pilzen, Czechoslovakia during World War II.

“The most important things he accomplished in life, it’s all relevant today and still at the forefront,” Ted Pisk said. Stan Pisk’s time in the U.S. Army included involvement off Omaha Beach on D-Day and the Battle of Bulge.

Ted Pisk followed in his father’s footsteps, helping build Stanley GC into one of the busiest public golf facilities in the state before his retirement in 2001. He took a particular interest in juniors and remains active as an instructor with the First Tee of Connecticut.

The New Britain native has made significant contributions to the Section, notably in communications as a writer for the national PGA Magazine. He also served as a board member, vice president at large and has been active on numerous committees.

A high school honor student at New Britain, he was also educated in political science and economics at the University of Connecticut. Pisk has twice been honored with a Paul Harris Fellowship award for his service with the local Rotary Club.

Both are members of the New Britain Sports Hall of Fame.