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**2015 Connecticut Section PGA Hall of Fame Inductee Profile: Tim Gavronski**

SOUTH GLASTONBURY, Conn. (November 23, 2015) - Russ Held, Connecticut Section PGA Publicist

Give it up for Tim Gavronski. Because he's done it for you.

The head golf professional at Shuttle Meadow Country Club in Berlin has already left his mark as one of the most influential professionals and contributors to the Connecticut Section PGA during its 82-year history.

And for his efforts, Gavronski will be enshrined into the Section's Hall of Fame.

Gavronski will be joined by retired golf professional James Orsi and current Wyckoff CC pro Tony Kelley when the Hall of Fame's eighth class is inducted on Nov. 30 at Lake of Isles in North Stonington, Conn.

The enshrinement highlights a Hall of Fame Induction and Champions Tribute, a program that includes recognition of the 2015 PGA Member Championship winners, Player of the Year awards and the winner of the President's Award.

"It's the pinnacle of my career," Gavronski said. "It was a very nice surprise. Just the words 'Hall of Fame' . . . I knew I probably fit some of the criteria, that I might have a shot (someday). But I was surprised because it happened now."

Connecticut Section PGA Hall of Fame committee member Gary Reynolds said Gavronski's priorities have been invaluable to the Section for decades.

"He is an exemplary professional . . . he has worked continuously to enhance the Section and to help his fellow professionals," Reynolds said. "He knows the PGA owes him nothing. He knows he owes the PGA."

The Berlin resident has long been one of the Section's top fundraisers, single-handedly raising more than \$72,000 for the Connecticut Section PGA Golf Foundation and junior golf.

"As much as golf has given back to me over the years, giving back is so much more satisfying," Gavronski said. "I have so much admiration for guys like Walter Lowell, Gary Reynolds, Frank Selva, Ron Beck, Tom Gleeton, Rob Barbeau. These are all guys who got involved and made the Section better. They've really made a difference."

At age 57, the Wisconsin native has won nearly every major honor awarded by the Connecticut Section PGA, including its Professional of the Year award in 1998.

"The Professional of the Year award was pretty special," Gavronski said. "And once I won the Junior Golf Award, I think I was only the second guy (with Beck) to win all of the awards. I have a little shrine where I keep them and I put a sticky note in the spot where it (junior golf award) was going to go."

Gavronski's other high level Section honors have included: Teacher of the Year; Bill Strausbaugh Award; Horton Smith Award; Youth Player Developer; Merchandiser of the Year; and President's Award.

"I have the time to commit," Gavronski said. "My wife (Susan) and I do not have children. I can see the value you get back with the time and effort that's put in."

"He has won just about everything," Reynolds said. "And you really can't get much better than that."

Gavronski is completing his 14<sup>th</sup> season at Shuttle Meadow, a private club on Randecker Lane that will celebrate its centennial anniversary in 2017.

"The history here . . . Shuttle Meadow has always been known as a hidden gem," Gavronski said. "We have a plaque here that says 30 U.S. and British Open champions have played here. Ouimet, Sarazen . . ."

Prior to that, Gavronski spent 13 seasons as head pro at Black Hall Club in Old Lyme.

"It was golf only there . . . but when you drive up the driveway there, you know why you're there," he said of Black Hall. "When I left there, there was an eight-year waiting list for membership. My last eight years there, I had an expanded role. But it also pulled me away from where my passion for the game is."

Gavronski moved on to Shuttle Meadow, taking over for the retired Dick Burkharth.

"How hard was it to leave and move on?" Gavronski said. "I hand-delivered my resume on the day of the deadline. But I felt like I had a good shot, I was the president of the Section at the time."

Gavronski has taken great pride in knowing his strengths in the profession include a tireless public relations skills and a well-rounded skill set.

His passion in golf centers on teaching, mentoring and junior golf.

"It's always so fun to watch a junior go from not knowing if they want to play the game to becoming an addict of the sport," he said.

Down the road, Gavronski said he was hopeful his legacy will be exactly that . . . a legacy.

"I hope people will remember me as someone who loved to foster the game in juniors, was a great mentor for my staff and assistants and someone who helped improve the overall product of the club and the game," he said. "I'm hoping I can leave really big shoes to fill for the next person in my position."

Among Gavronski's ongoing contributions has been running his 100-hole fundraising golf marathon each summer for the last 16.

"One year, I was on the sixth hole on my front nine . . . it's a par 3, uphill into the rising sun," Gavronski said. "We hit, we fly up to the green and (former assistant) Kyle (Hedstrom) said 'I thought you hit it on the green.' We didn't see it, but saw the dew track going right to the hole. It was my second (career ace) and we spent most of the rest of the round trying to make another one."

Gavronski has twice qualified to play at region's PGA Tour event, known then as the Greater Hartford Open.

"Once I got a taste of that in 1995, I really wanted to get in again," said Gavronski, who also played in 2000. "My dad came out to see me and he was really clueless about what it was all about and what it meant to me."

Gavronski's roots in the game date back to the mid-1970s days of picking the range for pro Tony Coleman in Seymour, Wisc.

"I worked to pay for a set of clubs," Gavronski said. "There were two things I loved – golf and playing the drums. And I gave up the drums."

Gavronski found his way to Ferris State University in Big Rapids, Mich., where he played in three national championships before graduating in 1983. Along the way, he qualified for the 1980 U.S. Amateur.

"But there, I learned the difference between being a professional golfer and golf professional," he said. "I'm on the range next to a tall guy named Bob Tway. The way he hit the golf ball, it just had a different sound. That's when I thought maybe it was time to consider a different part of the golf business."

An internship later landed him on the East Coast, at places like Kennett Square GC and Aronimink in Newtown Square, Penn., and the CC of Jackson (Miss.). Gavronski met Susan in Mississippi and they married in 1983.

His travels took him back to Aronimink, to Philadelphia Cricket Club and later the Pittsburgh Field Club.

"I thought I had opportunities to land head jobs, but I hadn't been working out," Gavronski said. "It was tough on me for a while, but at Pittsburgh Field Club I found a member whose brother-in-law was a member at Black Hall. That job came open . . ."

And the rest is history.