

Entry into the Hall

On April 28, 2017 at Fircrest (Wash.) Golf Club, the PNGA added three new members into the Pacific Northwest Golf Hall of Fame, while the Pacific Northwest Section PGA added two to the Section's Hall of Fame, during a joint Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony for the two organizations.



Les Blakley was the PGA Head Professional of Kalispel Golf and Country Club (formerly Spokane CC) for 26 years. He served his members with distinction and was bestowed with the title of Golf Professional Emeritus by the club in appreciation for his dedication.

Les served as President of the Pacific Northwest Section in 2005-2006, and was also President of the Inland Empire Chapter, and served two separate terms on the chapter's Board of Directors.

He was recognized as Golf Professional of the Year on two occasions (2006, 2014) and is a four-time winner of the Merchandiser of the Year Award for Private Facilities. Blakley has also been recognized a record 11 times by the Inland Empire Chapter as Merchandiser of the Year.

Blakley grew up in Gresham, Ore. and played on the golf team at the University of Portland. He entered the golf business at Columbia Edgewater CC, before moving to Twin Lakes Village in 1982. He then moved to Kalispel Golf and Country Club in 1985.



For **Mike Davis**, it seems he was born for a life in the game.

In high school, Mike lettered for three years in track and four years in golf. His senior year at the University of Oregon was arguably his best overall year as an athlete – he qualified for the 1968 U.S. Open, played in the NCAA Championship for golf, and also competed in the NCAA Championship for volleyball.

He competed in four consecutive Pacific Coast Amateurs, including the inaugural championship held in 1967 at Seattle Golf Club. He would win back-to-back titles – 1969, 1970 – and was a member of four Morse Cup Teams.

His winning ways continued, taking titles in the 1969 Payless Golf Classic, the 1970 Oregon Amateur, and qualifying again for the U.S. Open, this time in 1969.

Now a PGA Master Professional of Instruction, Mike is a perennial "Top 100 Teacher in America."

Since 2012 he has been a Trustee for the Pacific Coast Golf Association with the SNGA.

Ruth Jessen was a spitfire who tore through the Northwest amateur scene in the mid-1950s. She was medalist in the 1954 U.S. Girls' Junior, and in 1954 won the WSWG Amateur, the Seattle City Women's Amateur (for the third consecutive year), the Lower Columbia Women's Championship, the Apple Blossom Tournament, and the PNGA Women's Amateur. She repeated at the 1955 PNGA Women's Amateur.

In 1956, after competing against (and consistently outdriving) LPGA star Patty Berg in a nine-hole exhibition outside of Seattle, Ruth turned pro and became, at 19, the youngest player on the LPGA Tour, where the colorful and fiery competitor quickly became a gallery favorite. She



won 11 times in her 20 years on the tour, and had five top-10s at the U.S. Women's Open, including two second-place finishes, in 1962 and 1964, losing in an 18-hole playoff in '64 to Mickey Wright.

Throughout the 1960s, Jessen suffered several injuries, battled through two separate bouts of cancer, and underwent over a dozen surgeries. She won her last tour title in 1971, an accomplishment so inspiring that she received the Ben Hogan Award to honor her comeback.

For 30 years she was a golf instructor in the Phoenix area after retiring from competition. She passed away in 2007 at the age of 70.

Growing up in Edmonton, Alta., at age 12 **Jackie Little** played with her mom in a mother/daughter tournament, and they won. "And that was pretty much it," Jackie recalls with a laugh. "I was absolutely hooked from that point on. I still have that trophy."

Jackie soon won her first of five City Junior Championships, and the following year was selected to her first of four Alberta Junior Teams, won the Alberta Juniors twice, was on the Canadian Junior Team twice and finished second in the Canadian Junior.

In 1982, Jackie moved to Vernon, B.C. when her husband Pat was appointed Head Golf Professional at the Vernon G&CC.

She would write her name on every significant trophy in British Columbia, winning five BC Women's Amateurs, three BC Women's Mid-Amateurs, and five BC Senior Women's Amateurs. She won three Canadian national titles, and was named Senior Women's Player of the Year for Canada and the PNGA in 2008 and 2009.



Roger Wallace has been the driving force at Polson Bay Golf Course for the past 30 years. He has been instrumental in raising funds for local organizations, and together with his staff has built a junior program in which over 400 kids participate annually.

He served on the PGA of America's Board of Directors and was President of the Pacific Northwest Section in 1999-2000.

He was also President of the Western Montana Chapter, and served on the chapter's Board of Directors on four separate occasions.

Roger was recognized as Golf Professional of the Year on three occasions. He is a four-time recipient of the Pacific Northwest Section Bill Strausbaugh Award, and was awarded on the national level with the 2014 PGA of America Bill Strausbaugh Award. Nine of his former assistants have gained PGA membership and become head professionals, directors of golf and general managers.

Born in Whitefish, Mont., Wallace grew up in Washington, attending high school in Ephrata and Yakima, where he excelled on the Eisenhower High School golf team. He played golf at Spokane Falls Community College and at Eastern Washington University.

