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TROY BURNE

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Brent Snyder:
Minnesota PGA
Player of the Year



Cover photography by
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Brent Snyder: Minnesota PGA Player of the Year

For 18 years running, the title Minnesota PGA Player of the Year has been dominated by two pros, Don Berry of Edinburgh USA and Jeff Sorenson of Columbia Golf Club. Then along came Troy Burne's director of instruction Brent Snyder, who finally upended their reign by a narrow margin last month.

"What a year!" says Brent. "The reality is my scoring average was only two strokes different than the year before. Those two strokes make a significant difference with the players I compete with." Brent won the Minnesota PGA Stroke Play Championship at the end of August, then backed it up with his second major of the year by winning the Minnesota PGA Match Play Championship. These two majors and three other victories secured his first Player of the Year honor.

Brent splits his time between tournament play and client instruction at Troy Burne. One of his first professional gigs was at Sea Island Golf Club in Georgia. He started working there the winter months from 2002

to 2007, mainly competing full time on mini-tours. His part-time work developed into a professional position with the company. "I was fortunate enough to be around some amazing players and instructors," says Brent. Davis Love III, Todd Anderson, Jack Lumpkin, Brandt Snedeker and Jonathan Byrd were a few of the people who helped shape his career. "It has been a blessing to have a connection with such a mecca, and I still travel to Sea Island multiple times a year with clients, or to relax ... really both if we are being honest."

At Troy Burne, Brent teaches students from age 4 to 80, everyone from fellow professionals to individuals who have never touched a club. "I absolutely love my job," he says. "My motto is service. I give the exact enthusiasm to my tenth lesson of the day that I provided to my first." Brent enjoys a loyal following of clients working toward or playing at the Division 1 level, and he always welcomes new students at any level.



Brent's students measure their success in different ways. He works with a strong stable of junior players, age 11 to college, who typically value victories: "Thankfully they have a lot of them." Other students value their success by the flight of the ball, others by how far their handicap fell. Still others just want to enjoy the game more—a goal Brent is

always happy to pursue. "Love to hear from any of you if you would like to talk golf, if there is a way I can help, or if you just want to say hello, send me an email at brenthsnnyder@gmail.com."

Brent lives in Hudson with his wife, Courtney. They enjoy dinner dates and movies, time with family, and traveling. He spent his early childhood in Stillwater, then his family moved to Europe for five years. When he returned to the states at age 14, he started playing golf for the first time, which by today's junior standards is a late start. He attended Mahtomedi High School and played at Stillwater Country Club through his high school years.

Brent's path to professional golf is unusual in that he did not play golf in college. He holds a degree in business administration from the University of Denver. "When I graduated in 2002, I didn't feel as engaged with the business world as I wanted to be; therefore, a match between sport and business made perfect sense." That's when he turned to pro golf, starting off his career at Oak Glen Golf Club in Stillwater as an assistant professional. Five winters of professional play in Georgia helped create the opportunity at Troy Burne, where he started in 2007. At the club, Brent keeps his business background at the forefront of his daily interactions.

Brent became a member of the PGA in 2009. In the past seven years, he has become close friends with Troy Burne's PGA Head Professional Dave Tentis. "I think the world of Dave," says Brent. "The community is so fortunate to have a class professional such as Dave Tentis."

There's a bit of the philosopher in our new Minnesota PGA Player of the Year. "William James, an old theologian, coined the term 'educational variety,' which, in so many words, means that we shape our lives from our experiences," explains Brent. "That is me, on and off the golf course.

Constantly loving the process, understanding there is not a finish line, and being grateful along the way. The amazing people that have come through my life have all had effects on my path. My wife and family obviously have a huge effect on my path, and I feel blessed. In the world of golf, Dave Tentis, my students, the tour players I have been around, the locations I have been have all had effects on my 'education.'" ■



The Values of Chiropractic

By Dr. Jay Wanken

What if I told you that your body has the ability to heal itself from the inside out? Would you believe me? Would you listen to your friends and family about this "new way" to find health and wellness? If your body functioned properly, would it be priceless?

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