



Delmar "Del" Starks

September 2, 1943 - July 4, 2011

Delmar (Del) Starks passed away in Jupiter, FL on July 4, 2011 at the age of 67, surrounded by family and friends. Though he bravely fought Melanoma cancer for 2 years, he succumbed to sudden cardiac arrest while at the Jupiter Medical Center for an unrelated issue.

Born in NYC September 2, 1943, Del, PGA Life Member, began his golf ambition as a caddy at the Inwood Country Club. Soon after, he moved to Ft. Myers, FL where he was encouraged to pursue a golf as a career by Patty Berg. Del eventually moved to Michigan where he became the head Pro at Arbor Hills Country Club in Jackson for several years. In the early 80's, Del was offered an opportunity to be the head teaching pro at Doral Country Club in Miami, under Jimmy Ballard. Until his untimely death, Del taught at Abacoa Golf Club in Jupiter, FL for many years, coaching many PGA and LPGA players, as well as emerging talent and other sports heroes. It was his true life's passion to see his students succeed and share his love of golf.

By popular demand, many of Del's students were anxiously awaiting his book, which was nearly completed. In his honor, Del's family will finalize his book and make it available in the coming months.

Del is survived by his wife of 46 years, Donna; daughter, Sherri (Phillips); son-in-law, Curt; grandson, Eli of IN; daughter, Erin of FL; brothers Gerard, James

and Lee - plus several friends, colleagues and clients. He's preceded in death by his parents, Edna and Delmar II; sister, Marie and nephew, Daniel.

At Del's request, no funeral service is scheduled. Instead, a Celebration of his life will be held on his birthday (September 2) in Jupiter, FL. Details will be announced on his website: www.delstarks.com.

The family wishes to thank the dedicated staff at the University of Miami Sylvester Cancer Center and the Memorial Regional Hospital Hollywood; their genuine care meant a lot to Del during his treatments. In lieu of flowers, gifts in memory of Del Starks may be made to either facility by visiting their respected websites: www.sylvester.org/community/how-to-give/online-gift or www.mhsfoundation.org

Tribute Wall



“ *Delmar "Del" Starks*

October 22, 2023 at 10:17 AM



“ *I had the great pleasure of taking lessons from del. He taught me a lot and I now pass that along to the students I teach. So far ive only taken lessons from three people. Jimmy ballads and Ron young and del. I became a scratch golfer within 2 years of playing thanks to Jimmy. Ron and especially del. I touched a golf club for the first time at age 23. Very sad when I learner of del passing away. He truly taught me how swing the club better. Thank you very much del.*

edward koch - succasunna, NJ - golf professional - September 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RC

“ I am writing this a couple of months after Del's passing, where I find it a bit less emotional to put a few thoughts about my good friend on his website,

I met Del at Doral back in the mid eighties when he was working for the great Jimmy Ballard. I would spend a lot of time watching Del and Jimmy teach. I knew I had a clue about teaching when I could watch a student hit a ball or two and prescribe the correct diagnosis just as if they had said it. It was my honor to work with Del and my good friend Jerry (Del's brother) in Randolph,NJ where I would pick Del's brain about the swing and how to communicate it to a student. Never was Del not willing to enthusiastically help me with my teaching or my own game. My payment to Del was for him to usually pick up the tab for a pizza and some cokes. Del was a giver.

As I think back a bit, I realize Del was born to teach. In fact, the only other thing I could ever see him doing would be playing the game for a living. And let me tell you, that man could play! Except for a somewhat balky putter he might have been tour quality good.....had all the shots and could demonstrate them at will. Late in Del.s life when he couldn't play anymore it must have been brutal for him though he didn't show it. Nevertheless, even with a cancer riddled body ,he'd be out on the tee preaching the gospel of "kick and cover makes it hover-- spin or slide hits it wide".....Del had many of those aphorisms not to mention dozens of jokes, tales, and golf stories. He often liked to say let's go sit down and "swap lies" He really was a good storyteller and always liked a good laugh!

I want to publicly than Del for his support and friendship for all those years, I will dearly miss him.

May God Bless Del's family

Ronnie Young

Ron Young - Hackettstown, NJ - good friend and co-worker - September 20, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ I have know Del for over 20 years as a friend and a golf student. I alwaysremember how simple he made golf for me and to this day I never metanyone who could hit a golf ball with such a sound. I can't say how much he meant to me as a teacher and a friend. I am so sorry to here of his passing, So sorry. I felt he was family. My life has been so enriched by knowing Del and have so so many sayings which will always be with me on the course and in life.Goodbye my friendBill Fickett

Bill Fickett - Somerset, NJ - Friend and student - September 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ Del,
Thank you for your encouragement
and for sharing your knowledge.
You will be missed.

Martin Vikstrom - Boca raton, FL - Student - July 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ Del was a really good man. Over the years he taught my brothers Leo, Dean and me. He also taught one of my best friends, Martin Vikstrom and Del beame a friend to all of us. I bet he is with my dad discussing the golf swing and wondering why none of us understood it like he did. Del was highly respected and he thoroughly enjoyed helping others. My thoughts and prayers are with Del and his family. God Bless.

John V W

John Van Wart - West Palm Beach, FL - Student - July 27, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LF

“ I have issues with my partner....Mr. Perfect Stroke. Not uncommon - you can print the nine rules to place on your refrigerator. My partner CAN NOT refrain from analyzing my set up during a game...."you're standing too close" ... "bend your knees! " So I ask Del, "Hows come there's no rule #10; "Mind your own beeswax?" So Del became my referee and was always on my side. I was always right with Del. So over time and many venting sessions, Del lost the referee title and became my good friend. I will always remember to lien my club toward my left Louie.

Lore McDonald Kurland - Friend - July 19, 2011 at 12:00 AM

WF

“ My Deepest Sympathies To Dels Family... I Will Miss Our Yearly Visits AS I Winter At Tequesta And Practice At Abacoa Golf Club...

William Scheele - Jackson, MI - Friend - July 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ My deepest sympathies to Sherri and all her family in this difficult time. Mr. Starks indeed seemed like a wonderful husband, father, and friend. Best to you all.

Miguel Corona - Friend - July 14, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DP

“ I'll never forget the phone call from Del, it was a Sunday and I had just returned home from Church. Del was calling to tell me he had been selected to be the Head Professional at Arbor Hills C. C. in Jackson, Michigan - we had worked together for several years at the club and he was offering me the opportunity to be his Assistant Golf Professional. Needless to say I was floored, Del had been working with me for several years as I said and he knew this is what I was shooting for in the long run - I was so young (19) and so scared.

Worked for Del that first year then moved on to other opportunities - knowing well that with Del's help I was on my way to become a PGA Golf Professional.

My best day ever with Del was when he came to my Club (Forest Lake C. C., Bloomfield Hills, Mi) to play in a Pro-Am, he was so proud - I was a Head Professional and PGA Memeber - During the Awards Presentation at the end of the day I asked Del to stand and I introduced him as the man that changed my Life forever with a phone call on a Sunday afternoon.

The effect of that phone call and this man belief in me changed my Life forever.

Our Prayers go out to Del's Family and Friends,

David May and Family

David B. May - Milford, MI - Del's First Assistant Golf Pro - July 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LB

“ One of my favorite memories i have of Del, was the day he took me to Cascades park in Jackson, Michigan. I was maybe 11 or 12 years old at the time. Back then i had an old skateboard...old..with the skinny metal wheels, not the big fancy 400.00 boards with rubber wheels. Anyway behind Cascades water falls attraction was an old soapbox derby track...basically a long stretch of road about 200 yards long.....with a 45 degree down slope. Very scary to just stand at the top of that huge track and just look down. I had the bright idea of going down that steep hill on that rickity skateboard.....without crashing and and getting hurt. At first Del said there was no way anybody could go down this hill on a skate board because the track was too fast.....Several attempts later.....i made it! When i turned to look up at the top...there was my Del clapping and yellin you did it! When i met him at the top he gave me a hug and said he was proud of me for not giving up...THAT meant the world to me!

Lee Starks - Jackson, MI - Brother - July 12, 2011 at 12:00 AM