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Golf club director finds teaching rookies most enjoyable part of job

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DELRAY BEACH — When Bill Kriews was a teenager growing up in New Jersey, many of his afternoons and weekends were spent at the golf course across the street from his home.

Kriews began his first job in golf mowing grass and eventually worked his way to the golf shop.



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Bill Kriews, who lives in The Acreage, is the director of golf at the Delray Beach Golf Club and the Lakeview Golf Club. Kriews is shown here on the Delray Beach club course. For the past 18 years, he has been a golf professional with the PGA of America.

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Delray Beach Golf Club and the Lakeview Golf Club.

"My dad actually got me into golf when I was quite young," Kriews, 46, said. "But I really didn't take it up because I really played baseball growing up. I was a sophomore in high school and we had moved across from a golf course. I'd go across the street and hit golf balls and I got a job at the golf course ... I just love

Kriews joined the JCD Sports Group, which manages both golf clubs, in 2004 after spending 15 years as professional at a private club in New Jersey. During that time, he has overseen a number of events at the and worked with numerous students.

"It's been a lot of fun in the position," he said. "It's been great. I was at a private club before this, which worked about 20,000 rounds (a year). And now coming to Florida and working year-round took a little bit of adjustment worked out to doing almost 80,000 rounds. It keeps you on your feet, keeps you going. "

For Kriews, it isn't the first time that he has worked in South Florida.

Kriews said he knew after finishing high school that he wanted to pursue a golf career. So after graduating to Palm Beach County and began working at local courses, including the old Indian Trail Golf Club in R Beach. He now lives in The Acreage with his wife Sara and has two children, Eric, 21 and Samantha, 18.

"I wanted to really get into it (the golf business) and this was the golf capital, so I came down here to South to pursue my career," he said.

Kriews played golf in high school, but said he was more interested in the teaching and merchandising as a profession than trying to pursue a golf career. He said the thing he has enjoyed the most during his time as a professional has been the chance to meet and interact with numerous people.

"What I love about the job, really, is all the different people I get to meet," Kriews said. "That's really the part about this facility. With 80,000 people coming through, you get to see a lot of people. Especially this

year with all of the tourists coming down and the snowbirds coming back. It makes it enjoyable."

Through the years, Kriews has had a chance to study under some of the nation's top teachers. During his time in New Jersey, where he was the head pro at Metedeconk National Golf Club, Kriews said that big companies in the area would often hold clinics at the club and bring in some of *Golf Digest's* Top 100 teachers to run them.

"For me to get down there and watch how the top 100 teachers taught, I could really develop my own style," he said. "It was a great learning experience for me and it really helps me now in my teaching."

While Kriews has helped a number of PGA and LPGA players with their swing, he said he particularly enjoys working with golfers who are just learning the game.

Kriews said his goal for each of his students is to help them develop a love and an enjoyment for the game.

"What I try to teach to all my students is to have fun first," he said. "To be able to go out there and enjoy your round of golf, not worry about hitting the perfect shot every time ... I always ask my students 'Where do you want to go with your game? Do you want to be on the PGA tour, the senior tour or the LPGA tour? And 99.9 (percent) say, 'No, I want to go out and have fun.'... Then we've got them. "

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