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2004

Area Golf Guide

Momma Golfer Girl



Gina Higbee, Cedar Hills Golf Club Director

Gina Higbee is known by a lot of names. She's "Cedar Hills Golf Club Director," "acting-head professional Gina Higbee" and any term of endearment her husband, Wes, calls her.

But perhaps her favorite is "Momma Golfer Girl," the admirable name her 4-year-old daughter, Kelsie, has given her.

"She loves the fact that I have a passion for this game," Gina says. "It means a lot that my girls like me doing this."

In fact, when talking about being the only woman head golf professional in Utah, the Highland native talks about the influence she hopes it has on her three daughters (ages 4, 2 and 1) more than any personal recognition she receives.

"I hope that I can teach them that they can be whatever they want if they are aggressive and work hard — whether it's being a golfer or being a doctor," she says.

Working hard is what has helped Gina get to where she is now, as director of golf at the county's newest golf course.

When Gina was 12 she started her golf career at Tri City Golf Course in American Fork and played every chance she got.

She eventually received a scholarship to golf at Idaho State University in Pocatello, Idaho.

When her collegiate career ended in 1996, she worked at Juniper Hills Country Club in Pocatello. In 1997, she was hired as an assistant golf pro at Thanksgiving Point. She then moved on to Hidden Valley Country Club in Sandy before taking off three years to start her family.

"Having a family was the priority," Gina says. "My girls come out and play at the course now. We cut them little clubs and they love riding around in the carts and playing with mom and dad."

With the family in place and her husband working at home, Higbee gladly took the challenge of building a successful course from the ground up. She was hired as the director of golf and acting head professional after the city of Cedar Hills took over the course from a leasing company.

While the course is enjoying fuller parking lots every week, Higbee acknowledges there are still obstacles to overcome before the course is what she envisions.

"Our biggest challenge is definitely getting the word out," she says. "People have the courses they play and it's hard to get people to know about us and then also get them to break those habits."

But, she also believes that once people play the course they'll be back.

"I'm confident in the course," she says. "Once people know we're here and they come and play the course, they have an enjoyable time and will come again."

Gina is bringing people to the course for lessons — especially women.

"I get a lot of women who want to take lessons from me," she says. "I just think that learning the game is sometimes less intimidating when it's a woman teaching."

With this in mind, Gina is joining forces with world-class golf instructor John Geertsen, Jr., from California, to start the "Your Turn for Success Golf School."

Gina hopes that people will look at the Cedar Hills course as a way to build and maintain relationships — especially with family. After all, that's what she does.

She's "Momma Golfer Girl."