

## **Matt Keel, PGA**

Lead Golf Instructor

Matt Keel is an Arizona native, a graduate of the University of Arizona, a Class "A" PGA Professional, the Lead Golf Instructor at the JW Marriott Wildfire Golf Academy, and the Head Golf Coach of the Paradise Valley Community College Women's Golf Team.

Matt began his career at the JW Marriott Wildfire Golf Club in 2005. Soon after joining Wildfire, Matt became an Assistant Golf Professional and Certified Instructor for the Wildfire Golf Academy until becoming the Lead Instructor in 2012. During the same period, Matt was also the Head Golf Coach for Veritas High School and North Phoenix Preparatory Academy in Phoenix.

Over the years Matt has taught all ages and skill levels of golfers. Matt's experience includes teaching golf schools, game improvement series, individual lessons and corporate clinics. Through his teaching style Matt strives to create effective changes in an individual's abilities that will result in long-term improvement and greater enjoyment of the game. To that end, Matt uses everything from basic drill-based instruction, to simple corrective changes, to completely recreating a golfer's swing. Consequently, Matt's teaching and coaching style requires a patient manner, open communication and a strong understanding of golf principles.

During the past several 5 years, Matt has developed a junior program at Wildfire Golf Club. Wildfire Junior Academy now has up to 30 kids actively engaged in individual and group lessons throughout each week. Most of these juniors had never held a club prior to joining the academy. At present, these juniors compete individually, on teams, or just play for fun.

Another project Matt has been honored to be part of is the PGA Hope program. At the national level of the PGA, officials expanded PGA H.O.P.E., a project designed to provide free golf instruction to our nation's wounded military veterans. Matt is honored to have implemented the Arizona Chapter of the PGA H.O.P.E. program. PGA H.O.P.E. offers seven weeks of group clinics to veterans of all levels and disabilities. Whether the veterans have limited mobility, prosthetics, or are bound to a wheelchair, it's been inspiring to help them work around their challenges and once again play a game they never thought possible.

### **2016 Goals**

Continue to help people improve and enjoy playing the game of golf, lead his college team to the national competition, expand PGA HOPE in the phoenix area, and play in more PGA Section Tournaments.