

# Kentucky Golf Hall of Fame 2018 Nomination Form

## NOMINEE'S NAME

McNamara Rob \_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name First Name Nickname (if applicable) Middle Initial

## NOMINEE'S DATE OF BIRTH

1965 September 20  
Year Month Day

## RESIDENCE

Years Kentucky Resident (minimum 5 years required) 27

Current Residence  
1625 Country Club Circle Charlottesville VA 22901  
Address City State Zip

## STATUS



- ☐ Amateur  
☒ Professional  
☐ Deceased (please provide date of death \_\_\_\_\_)

## KEY AREAS (check all that are applicable)



- ☒ Playing Achievements  
☐ Contribution/Promotion of the Game  
☐ Contribution to Junior Golf  
☐ Teaching of the game  
☐ Golf Course Architecture  
☐ Turf Grass Research  
☐ Golf Course Management/Maintenance  
☐ National Recognition

## SUPPORTING MATERIALS

### Required

-  One page type written biography of nominee  
 Two (2) Letters of Nomination

### Suggested

-  Newspaper articles  
 Photographs

June 29, 2018

Kentucky Golf Hall of Fame Committee:

I am writing this letter in support of Rob McNamara's nomination to the Kentucky Golf Hall of Fame.

I have known Rob for 40 years and he was one of the most dominant amateur and junior golf players the State has seen. Rob has had an illustrious career on the golf course, winning championships as a junior, amateur and professional. Rob and his family are from Frankfort, KY where he lived for over 25 years.

Rob has won the Kentucky Open 2 times, the Kentucky State Amateur Championship, the Kentucky Junior Amateur and the Kentucky State High School Championship. To my knowledge, I am not sure anyone else in Kentucky golf history has accomplished winning each major championship as a junior and amateur. In Rob's Kentucky State Amateur win, he was a winner by 6 shots over current hall of famer Steve Flesch. In his first Kentucky Open win as an amateur, he won by 7 shots over Steve Flesch. He also set the Wildwood CC course record of 63 during his victory.

As a Kentucky Junior, Rob won the Kentucky Junior Am in 1981 and won the Kentucky State High School Championship in 1983. Also in 1983, Rob qualified for the U.S. Open at the age of 16, at that time the second youngest player ever in the U.S. Open field behind Jack Nicklaus. He also received high school honors as a Kentucky High School All American and an AJGA All American. In all, Rob won more than 20 junior and high school tournaments.

Rob's amateur career was illustrious. Besides winning Kentucky titles, Rob was a quarterfinalist in the U.S. Amateur, won the prestigious Southern Amateur 2 times and runner-up in the Sunnehanna Invitational plus a quarterfinalist in the Western Amateur, the big 4 amateur events of the times. As a collegian for LSU, he was a 3 time All American, 4 time All SEC Conference including SEC Freshman of the year and SEC Player of the Year. Rob won 4 collegiate tournaments and had over 15 top 10 finishes in tournaments throughout his collegiate career including 2 team SEC Championships. He capped off his amateur career with a win representing the United States in the Simon Boliver Cup in Caracas, Venezuela. He and his partner David Toms, defeated 25 countries, 13 shots ahead of everyone else.

After graduating from college, Rob turned professional in 1988 and in 1989 won his 2<sup>nd</sup> Kentucky Open Championship defeating Steve Flesch and Jim Volpenheim in an exciting 5 hole playoff. Rob would go on to qualify for a 2<sup>nd</sup> U.S. Open in 1990 as a professional. Rob was a member of the Canadian PGA Tour and the Australian PGA Tour from 1988 – 1990 where he won the Barquisimeto Open (by 9 shots over David Toms) and the Air New Zealand Open where once again he set a course record 61 in his victory and won by 7 shots over Jeff Sluman and Corey Pavin..

In 1992, Rob decided to give up his playing career and he left Kentucky to join the Florida Gators as an assistant coach for 2 years. In 1993 the Florida Gators won the National Championship and of all places in Kentucky, at Champions Trace Golf Club. Rob left the University and pursued a professional career with the PGA of America. He went to Hawaii for 6 months as an assistant pro at Kapulua, then to his final destination for the next 25 years at Farmington Country Club, where he started out as an assistant pro for a few years then became the head professional for the past 22 years.

Rob's accolades continued in Virginia, where he was the runner-up in the National Assistant Professional Championship twice and won the Virginia State Open. Off the course he has excelled as well, honored 2 times for the Middle Atlantic PGA Merchandiser of the year, Ping National Clubfitter of the year, and just this year, the 2018 Middle Atlantic PGA Professional of the Year. Rob has been exceptional at his golf career both on and off the golf course. He has been involved with numerous golf clinics and provided tutelage to over 30 assistants and thousands of junior golfers over his career.

Rob has been a great friend of mine for a lifetime. His parents Sam & Julie were prominent and giving people who supported golf and multiple charities in Frankfort and Kentucky. His grandfather Patrick McNamara was once the head pro at Danville, CC. Rob has a beautiful family, his wife Carrie, daughter Madeline and son Sam who will soon be attending Transylvania University. Rob has spoken often about when he retires, he will come back to his Old Kentucky Home.

Being inducted into the Kentucky Golf Hall of Fame is a great honor. I believe Rob McNamara's golfing accomplishments are more than worthy and he will make a great addition to this prestigious club.

Best,

Steve Stallings

Kentucky Hall of Fame Committee:

Committee, Please accept my letter as endorsement of Rob McNamara for Kentucky's Golf Hall of Fame. I have known Rob for over 40 years, many of these playing competitively. He was an outstanding high school golfer at Western Hills and went on to win KHSAA state championship. His expertise on golf course went far beyond state lines and he was competitive on AJGA circuit early on competing with the Billy Mayfair's and Billy Andrea's of his generation.

Rob's success in junior golf led him to a scholarship at LSU after a highly competitive recruiting process. Like many other high school champions of this era he left KY to sharpen his skills south for a chance of chasing PGA dream. His move paid great dividends for his career. He like several other current Hall of Fame inductees had a stellar college golf career. Rob was a dominant player during his career at LSU. He was named SEC player of the year in 1987 to book end his collegiate career as he was freshman of the year in 1984. During his playing days Rob was a 3-time NCAA All American. His summers were filled with highly completeive national events where he scored several National titles.

In 1985 he added KY State Amateur to his playing resume. Rob followed this up by winning KY Open twice in 1986-89. A feat accomplished by a select few true state champions, most have already been inducted into KY Hall of Fame. Add to this his high school championship and he becomes in an even more elite group of KY State championship winners.

These accomplishments alone qualify Rob for induction into one of our states highest honors. But, he has contributed much more to this great game of golf through his character and has been awarded many honors for both on the golf course and off. Maybe none higher than being chosen as USA vs. Japan Friendship Ambassador Award, something not a lot of people can boast about being honored as an international sportsman. Again speaking volumes of his character and skill sets Rob McNamara possesses.

Thank you for your time and sincere considerations of Rob McNamara for KY Golf Hall of Fame.

Thank you

Marty Storch

3 Major Kentucky Titles

- 2 Time Kentucky State Open Champion (1986 & 1989)
- Kentucky State Amateur Champion (1985)
  
- United States Open Participant (1983 (2<sup>nd</sup> youngest in history at the time) & 1990)
- U.S. Amateur Quarterfinalist (1987)
- 2 time Southern Amateur Champion (1986 & 1987)
- Simon Bolivar Champion (1987)
- National Collegiate Invitational Champion (1987)
- Sunnehanna Invitational Runner Up (1987)
- Kentucky Governors Open Champion (1989 & 1993)
- Western Amateur Quarterfinalist (1987)
  
- Kentucky State High School Champion (1983)
- Kentucky State Junior Champion (1981)
- 2 time Kentucky Two Man Champion (1983 & 1986)

Other Awards

- National Assistant Professional Championship (Runner-up 1993 & 1994)
- Virginia State Open Champion (1995)
- Middle Atlantic PGA Section Champion
- Virginia State Open Low Professional (1999)
- Air New Zealand Open (1988)
- Barquismeto Open (1988)

Honors:

- Kentucky Amateur of the Year (1987)
- Kentucky Junior of the Year (1983)
- AJGA Junior All American (1983)
- Kentucky High School All American (1983)
  
- NCAA All American (3 Times 1985-1987 LSU)
- All SEC Conference (4 times 1984-1987 LSU)
- SEC Freshman of the Year (1984 LSU)
- SEC Player of the Year (1987 LSU)
- USA vs. Japan Friendship Ambassador Award

PGA of America Honors:

- Middle Atlantic PGA Professional of the Year (2018)
- Middle Atlantic PGA Merchandiser of the Year (2001 & 2008)
- Ping National Clubfitter of the Year (2007)