

Jerry Courville Jr.



It didn't take the Norwalk golf community very long to realize that **Jerry Courville Jr.** was going to be something special on the links.

Even as far back as when he was just seven years old and learning the game at his home course at the Shorehaven Golf Club, members could already see the signs. And as he grew older and improved his game, winning tournament after tournament, there were whispers about how Jerry Courville Jr. could be the best amateur golfer to come out of Norwalk since . . . well . . . another golfer named Jerry Courville.

Jerry Courville Sr., a 1990 Norwalk Old Timers honoree, was a dominant amateur golfer himself from Shorehaven. And before he passed away in 1996, he was also Jerry Jr.'s mentor, inspiration, golfing partner on many occasions, and, most of all, his best friend.

The younger Courville was 16 and still attending Brien McMahon High School when he won his first tournament, the Connecticut Junior. While at McMahon, he was a two-time All-FCIAC golfer for the Senators and was voted the top golfer in the conference as a senior. His resume earned him a scholarship to the University of Maryland.

Other championships would soon follow, including the Connecticut Amateur and three Metropolitan Amateur titles. He also captured the prestigious Metropolitan Golf Association 'Ike' Championship three times — 1990, '91 and '97. At the time only his father had more 'Ike' titles with six. Courville Jr. also recorded several top finishes in the U.S. Amateur, including a semifinal appearance in 1989, while in 1993 he reached the U.S. Mid-Amateur semis.

His best year on the circuit, however, was 1995. Courville was one of only two amateurs to qualify for the U.S. Open at Shinnecock and just missed the cut. Then in September he won his first national title, the U.S. Mid-Amateur, to qualify for The Masters in 1996. His father, who passed away seven months later, made his first visit ever to the Augusta National Golf Club to watch his son play in the most famous tournament in the world.

Courville's accomplishments also include making the U.S. Walker Cup team in 1995 and '97. One of his teammates in '95 was Tiger Woods, while Courville's three wins in '97 — including two against future U.S. Open champ Justin Rose — helped the U.S. team win the Cup.

Two years later, in 1999, and again in 2002, Courville returned to the U.S. Mid-Am finals and finished runner-up both times.

Courville is a six-time winner of both the Connecticut and MGA Player of the Year award. Following his father's passing, the MGA renamed its award the "Jerry Courville Sr. MGA Player of the Year Award," and Jerry Jr. won it three times under its new name.

He was also named the New England Amateur Player of the Year in 2003. In addition, Courville holds the USGA record for most match-play wins in U.S. Mid-Am history and consecutive years qualifying for match play in the U.S. Am. He also holds the course record at Shorehaven with 62, breaking the mark of 63 set by his father.

After years playing as an amateur, Courville turned professional in 2009 following his 50th birthday, making him eligible to play in senior events. He won four of the first five events he entered and finished runner-up in the other. One of his victories was the Connecticut Senior Open and he also qualified for the U.S. Senior Open. He won a second Connecticut Senior Open in 2014.

But perhaps three of Courville's most cherished championships were when he and his father teamed up as partners to win the Anderson Memorial in 1978, '79, and '83. And tonight, 26 years after Jerry Courville Sr. was honored by the Norwalk Old Timers, Jerry Courville Jr. is once again following in his footsteps.