

Stan Baluik, PGA Head Professional at Kirkbrae Country Club in Lincoln, RI from 1964-2005, actually began his New England "professional" career as a member of the Boston Bruins in 1959. Heralding from Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada, Stan then played the next five seasons for the Providence Reds of the American Hockey League, winning Rookie of the Year honors for the 1959-60 season and consistently placing in the league's Top Ten in scoring. He would spend his summers back home in Thunder Bay and would eventually work his way up to be the Head Professional at Fort William Country Club. Then, following the 1963-64 season, he received an offer that would change his life forever: Kirkbrae Country Club wanted him to take their open position as Head Golf Professional. Stan would accept, and the rest, as they say, is history.

Stan would continue on as the Head Professional at Kirkbrae until his retirement in 2005 and is considered by those who know him as the ultimate professional. His playing ability was obvious, as he was victorious at the 1965 Vermont Open and the 1971 Rhode Island Open and was also fortunate to play in two PGA Championships. He has always also been a fantastic mentor for his fellow professionals, including being a founding member of the Senior Association of the New England Section.

His love for the game was obvious in his development of the game at Kirkbrae, and he has been a tremendous ambassador for the membership for 47 years. The members have always seen it as such, and have bestowed various honors upon him throughout the years, including having a major club tournament being named after him. On the occasion of his 25th anniversary at the club, in 1988, over 1500 people attended a dinner in his honor, and he was once again honored in 2011 as part of the club's Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration.

Stan was inducted into the Northwestern Ontario Hall of Fame in 2001 for his achievements as a two-sport athlete. The Rhode Island Chapter of the NEPGA named him Professional of the Year in 1995, an honor he also won at the sectional level in 2004 as well. His dedication to the membership was also rewarded in 2003, as he was named the NEPGA Merchandiser of the Year for Private Facilities. Then, in 2005, he entire golf community of Rhode Island recognized Stan with induction into the RI Golf Hall of Fame.

Stan Baluik's fantastic contributions to the game of golf in New England are best witnessed in the number of assistants that have served under his tutelage that have continued on to Head Professional positions of their own. The ultimate club professional, Stan has established a level of dedication to the game that any PGA Professional would do well to achieve.