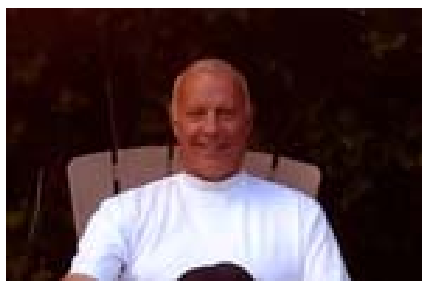


James Faddis, PGA



**College/University: Metro State college, Denver B.S.
Criminology, 1972**

Year Turned Pro: 1973

Facility and Job Title: Inverness Hotel & Golf Club, Denver

What was your motivation to become a PGA Professional?

The first time I went to our local public golf course at age 10, I knew I had found a haven. I could sweep the porch and empty the trashes and they would buy me lunch. As I started playing the game and became pretty good at 15, the local old guys not only would let me play with them but they wanted me to be their partner. Also, there was always present the local golf professional who was always dressed immaculately, could play the game as good as anyone there, and could tell stories about the game that would captivate you. I wanted to be that man.

What is your specialty in the golf business?

I try to point out to people the less obvious things in golf. How some people are so identifiable because of their clothes, the way they treat their equipment, the way they try and manipulate their handicap or the situation they're in to get an advantage. The way a heart surgeon has trouble teeing his ball up on the first hole of the club championship because he is so nervous or the way a top notch lawyer is doubting whether he should press the Nassau bet up on a hole where he doesn't have an obvious advantage and finally, how a top engineer at the completion of a hole isn't sure whether he made an 8 or a 9 for that hole.... Oh really!!!

Please list any accomplishments (Awards, Certifications, and Tournaments.)

Colorado Section: 1980-83 – Executive Committee member

1981 – Secretary-Treasurer, Horton Smith Award for Outstanding

achievement in contributing to the education of golf in Colorado, State Chairman of the Colorado PGA Junior Academy. 1982 – President of Colorado Section, 1983 Headed organizing committee for Colorado PGA adult academy, 1984 – Faculty member of the national PGA business school, 1985 – Received outstanding achievement award from Department of the Army for managerial performance at Fitzsimons Golf Club, Denver

What was your greatest moment in golf?

When you do something in golf that is memorable to you, it can come back into your thoughts when you least expect it to, and, in my case, be a character builder. It was 1968 in a place called the "Iron Triangle", Vietnam. I was in the 25th Infantry Division toting a M60 machine gun and on my first ambush patrol. We had set up along this road in what was called an "L formation" which put me and one other guy on one side of the road and the rest of the squad in a line in the other side of the road. The guy with me was on his first ambush also. We decided to divide the night into two parts, with him staying up for the first part of the night and me bring up for the second half of the night. Well, neither of us slept the first half of the night, because we were both scared: but then he felt sleepy and fell off to sleep. Suddenly, I was with my own thoughts and it started to rain. I started to think, what if instead of 10 or 15 guys coming down the road as we thought would happen, 50 or 100 of them came along? And instead of coming down the road, what if they were off to the side where we were? Also, what if they came from the opposite direction than we had set up our field of fire for? Needless to say, I was sitting there thinking I wasn't prepared for this and if anything happens I'll be killed and it will be my own fear, inadequacy, and doubt that will be the reason. I could feel myself shaking a little and I was sort of sick to my stomach, too. Then out of nowhere, a round of golf I had played a little over year earlier popped into my head. I had shot 28 on the back nine in a men's club tourney, and because it was a course record, it got a little blurb in the paper. What was unique about the round was that I three-putted twice during the nice holes. Well rather than recalling the small adulation I got from the rest of the guys, I decided to replay that round in my head. Like a lot of golfers, I could not only remember my every shot but I could also remember most to the shots of my three playing companions. I remember what was said among us all during the round, the type of lies I had on different shots and even the warmth of the sun and the smells of the course. I was able to turn that two-hour, nine-hole round into a four hour sweet memory.

Well we didn't pop that ambush that night, but as we got ready to head back to our base camp, just before the sun was coming up, instead of feeling scared, defeated and very lonely, I felt strong, happy and confident because I had just shot 28 again. For the rest of my one-year tour, I was able to think about all the facets of the game of golf that could take my mind off what was happening at the time and help me get through some rough times. I'm sure many golfers can relate to how this game can come into your mind so vividly and provide a welcome escape from some trying issue they are facing.

What or who has had the greatest impact on your career?

In 1975 I lost my right leg to bone cancer on Friday, June 13th. I was already a club professional at the time, but it took me until October before I was able to walk on my new leg and felt comfortable enough to work in the shop again. My boss, Frank Dalpes, Jr., a golf professional, who not only gave me my job back, paid me for the four months I was off, but gave me a raise to boot. I then moved on to Inverness Golf Club in Denver where Tom Babb, a golf professional, taught me not to lower my standards, but to use my talents to their fullest. I got involved in the section affairs of the PGA and became president of our Colorado section. I then moved onto run the Fitzsimons Golf Club and Heather Ridge Country Club, where I met Ron Reif, golf professional, who taught me how to run golf events for every level of player and every combination of partnerships. Through it all, I had the advice and counsel of my brother, Carl, golf professional and my best friend, Tim Brauch, golf professional. One taught me to respect the profession and the other taught to always try and play the game at a high level. These professionals I've named and many more that I have met and worked with, have made my life one of reward and accomplishment. To them all, I am truly thankful.

Besides golf, what else do you enjoy?

Reading books, from mystery, fiction, politics to history and of course golf.

If you could play any golf course in the world, which one would it be and who would complete your foursome?

I would play Augusta National Golf Club, before all the "Tiger-proofing," a 6,800-yard par 72 course with no rough at all that became the envy of all golfers throughout the world as a perfect course. Where a tour professional and a 13-handicapper could play together from the same set of tees and if things went poorly for the tour professional, he would shoot a 75 or 76 and if things went well for the 13-handicapper, he would shoot a 75 or 76. Also, if each player had

the opposite fate, the tour professional would shoot 65 or 66 and the 13 handicapper would shoot into the 90's. Most of the courses they have built in the last 30years are so difficult that the tour pro is looking at shooting around par at best, and the 13-handicapper can't even return a legitimate score from the back tees. Some people think this is how golf should be: I think it is a travesty of golf.

When I was young, I got in on the tail end of when there were caddies at most courses. What you learn from caddying, often caddying for complete strangers, was how differently people handled good shots, average shots and poor shots that they hit and that their fellow competitors hit. It was the most valuable lesson to learn. Because of these experiences, I would like to play with three strangers at Augusta. Because they would all be members of the club, I know they would all be leaders in their respective vocations. I would watch them closely to see how they handled all that a round of golf can impart on a person, and I now they would be watching me to see how I handled myself during the round. That would be golf at its excruciating best.

If you could give lessons to anyone in the world who would it be and what advice would you give?

The person I would most like to give lessons to is the person who came away from the lesson learning something of value from the experience. There is no better feeling that when someone says to you after a lesson, "Wow, I really see what you meant about that element of the swing, and it has really helped me."

What is your favorite golf instruction tip?

When you stand on the first tee and look around at your playing partners to see who the "pigeon is" and you don't see him standing there, you're it."