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Where are they now?

During the journey of life, people come and people go. Sometimes they return, and sometimes they do not. Here are a few of their tales.

RILEY WHEELDON

Wheeldon Finds a Home at Bear Mountain Resort

IT'S BEEN A LONG AND WINDING ROAD BACK HOME FOR RILEY WHEELDON.

Growing up on Vancouver Island, in Comox, B.C., Wheeldon was pretty much a golf phenom as a youngster. "I played a lot of sports as a kid," he said recently, during a casual round of golf on the Mountain Course at Bear Mountain Resort in Victoria. "Hockey, baseball, basketball. But when my dad took me to a driving range when I was eight, that was it for me. Golf became my game."

A natural left-hander, Wheeldon started the game as a right-hander and never looked back. He won the 2006 BC Juvenile and 2009 BC Junior championships. He played golf for two years at the University of Louisville ("I think I just wanted to get as far from home as possible at the time."), where he was the Big East Player of the Year in 2010. He then competed in the 2010 PPGA Men's Amateur at Royal Colwood in Victoria, after which he left school and turned professional.

"It's hard to believe I've been a pro for five years already," he says. "I still feel like I'm just beginning." He's played on a few mini-tours and one year on the Web.com Tour, but mostly on the Mackenzie PGA Tour Canada, on which he has full status for the 2016 season.

Rather than spending the upcoming winter in Florida or Arizona, which he has done the past several winters, he will be spending his off-season practicing at Bear Mountain Resort, serving as the resort's playing ambassador for the upcoming year.

Winters are fairly mild in the Victoria area of Vancouver Island, so he's not concerned about missing practice time. "I actually think it's better to be here (rather than in the warm climates of the southwest) because here, when it's raining or cold, you have to really want to play, and that's what I want to do. Keep playing, keep the interest and passion there. Also, after being on the road almost non-stop for the past five years, it feels pretty good to be anchored here for a while, to be home."



Riley Wheeldon
Photos courtesy rileywheeldon.com