



Member Profile Deal Hudson

Fairfax, Va., USA

“I was 11 years old and living in Ft. Worth, Texas, when my late father, Jack, handed me a set of used Hogan Apex irons and woods, and said, ‘Go learn how to play golf’,” says Deal Hudson. “He never paid for lessons and I was in my 50s when I had my first.”

Deal applied himself and got to a 7-8 handicap by his junior year in high school, but credits further improvement to the “close scrutiny of a real swing expert – Lynn Blake.

“Golf kept me and my father friends until the day he died – he disapproved of my academic career in philosophy – Mercer, Fordham, NYU – but was pleased to see I could run a small business (Crisis Magazine) and make it grow.

“He did not live to see me successfully lead Catholic Outreach for George W. Bush in 2000 and 2004 as well as serve as the head of the first Catholic Advisory Group to the White House.”

Deal is a published author who says he’s most proud of the following three: *Happiness and the Limits of Satisfaction* (Rowman & Littlefield, 1995); *An American Conversion: One Man’s Search for Beauty and Truth in a Time of Crisis* (Crossroad, 2003); and *Onward Christian Soldiers: The Growing Political Power of Catholics and Evangelicals in the United States* (Simon & Schuster, 2010).

“I’ve been married for 27 years to an Alabama girl, Theresa, who deserves the Medal of Honor,” Deal says. The couple have two children, Hannah, age 26, living in NYC, and Chip, age 17, adopted from Romania when he was 3½.

“When I am not golfing or working I’m watching French movies or reading about some period in history that still confuses me,” he says.

How often do you play hickories?

At least once a week with practice sessions on two other days.

What’s in your play set?

Louisville MacGregor-Klaymore driver with Jay Harris logo.
Louisville 26 degree Cleek.
Louisville Bulldog.
Ernest Jones/ Tom Stewart irons 1-8 (1920s).
Louisville 50 degree niblick.
Ernest Jones/ Tom Stewart flanged niblick (1920s).
Tad Moore Dunn Aluminum putter.

Favorite club?

My beloved Louisville Bulldog which has gotten me out of serious trouble many, many times.

What ball do you play?

Among modern balls the Titliest Pro V1 still performs the best, but I urge the Society to require the mesh ball for all tournament rounds.

Favorite course for hickories?

Hickories make any course I’m playing my favorite, but if



Philosopher/hickory golfer Deal Hudson.

I had to name only one it would be Ballyneal Golf & Hunt Golf in Eastern Colorado.

Favorite hickory tournament?

Mid-Pines with those autumn leaves, but Brian Schuman’s World Hickory Match Play has made a bold and fiery hot entrance.

Any particular player or aspect of golf history you especially enjoy?

Robert “Bobby” Tyre Jones, Jr., the only great golfer who was also a great writer of prose. The achievement of Jones as a golfer and as a man astonishes me. Hugely gifted with charm, eloquence, and the looks of a silent film star, Bobby Jones was not self-absorbed. He had the manners to notice anyone in the room who was alone. Jones would go to them, put his hand on their shoulder, and not leave until they were fully engaged in the gathering.

Best thing about hickory golf?

Men and women learning to play again: We are most human when we are at play.

Ideas to promote hickory golf?

I always tell steel players that hickories last longer, then I swig some scotch, puff on my pipe, and outride all of them. That get’s their attention!

Most recent book on golf that you read?

The Mystery of Golf by Arnold Haultain (Houghton Mifflin, 1908). I believe this was my fourth reading of what I regard the best book on golf yet written – gently philosophical, humorously poetic, and sentences worthy of T. E. Lawrence. I was not surprised to find that Haultain’s first book was on Cardinal Newman’s The Grammar of Assent (from India, no less).