



Nate McCoy

by Dave Paxton

There have been a number of high water marks in Nate McCoy's relatively short golfing career. He was an Iowa state champion for Dowling High School and he starred for Iowa State University, qualifying for the NCAA championship as a senior.

But perhaps his best moment came not as a golfer, but as a caddie.

McCoy's father is renowned Iowa amateur (10-time Iowa player of the year) Mike McCoy of Des Moines and at the age of 51 won the USGA title, thus earning an invitational to play in the Master's Tournament in Augusta, GA. He asked Nate to caddie for him. "It was great," said Nate. "It's one of the coolest courses I've ever seen. The entire compound is just incredible."

Golfing as one of four amateurs against the best professionals in the world, Mike McCoy didn't have his best outing ever. "It really didn't matter," said Nate. "It was a privilege to play and a privilege to caddie for him."

It's that sort of love for the game and servant attitude that Nate McCoy brings to golf. In an article printed in the Iowa State Daily, his coach, Andrew Tank, said this about his senior star: "He's certainly going to go down as one of the best players in the program's history. He's done a lot to put our program on the map – it's not just because he shoots low scores, it's because of the way he interacts and treats people."

That interaction and treatment comes in large part because of McCoy's Christian faith. "I accepted Christ as my savior when I was nine," he said. "But I got serious about my faith in college. I've always loved golf. I love to compete and it's a love I share with my dad. But golf is also a platform for my faith. Golf has given me a lot of opportunities to speak about my faith and my relationship with the Lord. I want to be an ambassador for Christ."

He became involved with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes at ISU as well as being involved in other campus ministries. "FCA is a special place," he said. "It allowed me to meet other athletes who immediately understood the things I was going through as an athlete. I developed great friendships and brothers and sisters who I could pray for and who I knew were praying for me."

If serving as his dad's caddy at the Masters wasn't thrilling enough, he got to visit with former Drake University and current PGA star, Zach Johnson, a former Masters winner at the tournament and a PGA pro who speaks openly about his faith. "He actually thanked me for my witness," said McCoy.

"There are a lot of pro golfers who are strong believers. There's no excuse for me not to be active in the Word and serve my community. There's no excuse not to be a good husband and father. There's a much bigger reason why we're out on the golf course."

Last summer he dove into two of the greatest challenges in his life. He entered Q-School and then the Canadian Tour (a developmental tour for prospective PGA players) and he married former Iowa State University goalkeeper Ashley Costanzo. The two grew up a little over a mile apart in Des Moines, but never met until college. An elementary physical education

