

## **Bill Cameron Sr: Practicing perfection**

After 37 years, you might think Bill Cameron Sr. would be tired of golf. You would be wrong.

“I started playing when I was 27, and I’m 64 now so I guess that’s 37 years,” he said. “It’s still not long enough.” Before taking an interest in golf Cameron was a ball player, and he explained he reason for switching sports was that in golf his success depended on his performance alone. Cameron was not golf prodigy and he struggled with the sport when he first started playing.

“It’s the same with anything; if you want to be good at it you have to practice, practice, practice,” he said. “To me it’s a passion. I like the work part of it and the strategy, changing this and trying that.”

He competed in a number of local tournaments over the next two decades, his game improved with time but it was not until his retirement in 1997 that Cameron’s game began to peak. “I had the time to put into golf that I never had while I was working,” he said. “After working an 8-hour day it’s not always easy to go play a round.”

In the 2000s, Cameron became a dominant force in Saskatchewan golf, winning the provincial seniors title four times; in 2002, 2003, 2005 and 2007. He made the Saskatchewan Mid-Amateur Men’s Team three times, which had him playing with and against golfers as young as 40 years old. “It was fun to play with the young bucks,” he said.

Eight years straight, Cameron made the Saskatchewan Provincial Senior Team. This team consist of the province’s four best senior golfers who compete across the country against other provincial teams. They compete both as a team and as individuals. “I have been all over the country with the Mid-Amateur and Provincial Senior teams,” said Cameron. “I think Ontario has the best courses, but the ones in P.E.I. are also very good. They’re all good.”

In recent years, Cameron has relaxed his game a little. “I’m still competitive,” he said, “just not as competitive as I was when I was 55.” With his 65<sup>th</sup> birthday on the horizon, he said some of his priorities have changed. He has grandchildren, for example, and a lot of his attention is focused on them. Some of his grandchildren have started to play golf, and though Cameron stops short of describing himself as a coach, he is a willing chauffeur providing rides to and from the golf course. “You get older and your priorities change,” he explained.

Still, Cameron averages about 140 rounds of golf each year. He is a member at the Valley Regional Park golf course in Rosthern, and he regularly plays Cooke Municipal golf course in Prince Albert. He plays in different Saskatchewan locales when there is an opportunity, and he said; “I still get the chance to play a

few tournaments a year. My wife says I play too much and I say I don't play enough."

Integrity, honesty and discipline are qualities Cameron said he has learned from playing competitive golf. He has had the opportunity to meet people from all across Canada from many different backgrounds. "I've met doctors and lawyers," he said, "and that's when you're equals. When you're on the golf course it doesn't matter how much education you have or how much money you make, you're all just hitting a ball around the course."