

# TOP Assistants

Nate James is not afraid to put in the time

*Editor's note: Top Assistants will feature a question-and-answer session with an assistant superintendent every month. If you'd like to nominate someone for the feature, please send an e-mail to Larry Aylward at [larylward@questex.com](mailto:larylward@questex.com).*

Kristy James is a big fan of her husband's work ethic. That's why she nominated Nate James to be profiled on this page.

"He's the hardest-working man in the world," Kristy says.

Nate is the assistant superintendent for the Wasatch Mountain State Park Soldier Hollow Golf Course in the Rocky Mountains of Midway, Utah.

Another thing Kristy noticed about Nate is his passion for the profession. Earlier this year while preparing his course for a tournament, she said Nate slept six hours in two nights.

We caught up with Nate recently to ask him a few questions about work and life.

**Golfdom:** What's your favorite part of the job?

**James:** I enjoy the diversity of the job. Each day brings a new set of tasks.

**Golfdom:** Who has been the biggest influence on your career and why?

**James:** All four of the superintendents who I have worked with have played an important role in the assistant that I am, and the superintendent that I strive to be. My father would have to be my biggest influence in my career, instilling in me a hard work ethic and a sense of pride in my work.

**Golfdom:** What's your favorite product or piece of equipment and why?

**James:** The Toro 5700 D spray rig. An application of any product on your course takes a good operator and an even better piece of equipment, especially when it comes to the risk of what could go wrong. The 5700 D has been a reliable and simple piece of equipment.

**Golfdom:** How many years have you worked in the golf industry?

**James:** Thirteen years. I started working in the golf industry as a seasonal in 1995 and have continued working until the present.

**Golfdom:** If you could change something about the industry right now, what would you change?

**James:** I feel that the maintenance side of golf deserves more respect for the job(s) that we do.

**Golfdom:** Describe yourself in one word:

**James:** Dedicated.

**Golfdom:** What is your favorite hobby and why?

**James:** I guess I have more than one favorite hobby; it depends on the time of year. I enjoy hunting and camping in the fall, and fishing and boating during the spring and summer. I really enjoy doing anything outdoors.

**Golfdom:** What's your favorite vacation spot?

**James:** Utah is the closest thing to a favorite vacation spot for me. Go north



and you have cool, snow-covered mountains. If you go south, you have warm, desert climate. There is always something to do in Utah no matter what part of the state you're in.

**Golfdom:** What's your favorite golf course besides your own?

**James:** Calusa Pines Golf Club in Naples, Fla. Nothing is out of place on the entire property.

**Golfdom:** If a movie were made about your life, what famous actor would play you?

**James:** I think that Kevin Costner would be a good fit. He is also passionate about his work, but he can have comedic and down-to-earth sides as well.

**Golfdom:** It's your last day on Earth. What would you do?

**James:** I would spend it with my family, friends and two dogs. ■