

The 19th Hole with

David J. Soltvedt

CGCS, DIRECTOR OF AGRONOMY // Giants Ridge Golf & Ski Resort, Biwabik, Minn.

What are you drinking? I'll have an ice-cold Dr. Pepper, on the rocks.



How did you meet your wife? We met in the baby nursery, when she was a newborn and I was two. True story. We knew we knew each other for a long time — our moms are longtime friends — but it wasn't until we were looking through her baby book that we saw her mom mentioned that we visited her in the nursery.

And you and your wife, Siri, have four kids? Yes, Gunther (9), Ingrid (7), Erick (4) and Klara (1).

I don't want the best advice you've ever gotten... how about the most ironic, or unusual? Well, a superintendent once told me that a good mechanic is more valuable than a good assistant... and I was his assistant at the time. But I get his point: As a superintendent, you have the same skill set as your assistant, but rarely do you have the same skill set as the mechanic. You only know enough to be dangerous.

Who doesn't get the credit that they deserve at your place? We couldn't get it done without our two superintendents, Joe Marafiot and Andrew Buchholz, and our two mechanics, Fred Baker and Dennis Hilmas, at



our two courses. We have one team, but with two maintenance shops that are three miles apart from each other, so it really is two different operations. And I'd be remiss if I didn't mention the corporate support we get from Troon Golf. They're the unsung heroes, they don't get credit for the passion they have.



Who are you taking in your bracket this year? I went to Michigan State, I was there when they won it all in 2000... I think they have a shot at winning it all every year. (Tom) Izzo knows how to coach them up. Final Four is a given.

So are you an exercise nut? I saw you do a backflip while wearing cowboy boots, that takes some athleticism. No, but I get enough workouts between the golf course and chasing my kids. I do enjoy skiing and basketball.

How do you even get started doing backflips? I wouldn't do piano lessons when I was a kid, so my mom took me to gymnastics for a year. I learned enough to still be doing backflips, but my body is telling me to slow down. I just want to be able to do a backflip for long enough that my youngest kid can remember me doing them... I need to stop having children.

As interviewed by Seth Jones, February 21st, 2014.



"(MEETING ANNIKA SORENSTAM AT THE GOLFDOM SUMMIT) EXCEEDED EXPECTATIONS, BOTH HER PERSONALITY AND HER PROFESSIONALISM. I'VE MET ARNOLD PALMER BEFORE, BUT I THINK THIS MEETING TRUMPED THAT."