

Chuck Sjostrom moved to Fargo in 1968 and first played in the Bobcat North Dakota Open in 1971 or 1972. He's only missed playing in the event a handful of years in the decades since. "I've missed a few years here and there. I had back surgery one year and couldn't play. I had business trips interfere a few times," Sjostrom says. "But I've probably played in 30 or 35 years of the event." That longevity has been recognized. Sjostrom is THE 2025 BOBCAT ND OPEN FOUNDER'S AWARD WINNER.

Now retired after 35 years as a financial planner and stockbroker, Sjostrom was surprised and humbled by the honor. "I suppose just because I've been there so long, they couldn't find anybody who had played more times than me," he says with a chuckle.

Sjostrom, 78, also served on the board of the Fargo Country Club in the 1980s and during that three-year term helped with planning for the Open. He recalls playing some pretty good tournament rounds over the years, including shooting a 66 - a few strokes better than the golf pro he was playing with. The Open previously had a senior division, which Sjostrom won several times, and he also won the event's net division in 2017.

Sjostrom also remembers playing at the Open in the 1970s with golf pro Eddie Langert, who won the first Bobcat Open in 1964 and went on to work for TaylorMade Golf and started his own company, Langert Golf. Langert handed Sjostrom one of the game's first metal wood clubs. "He tried to get me to play with this little metal driver. It was pretty primitive compared to what they have nowadays," Sjostrom says. "I did hit a few shots with it."

"It's been a fun tournament, and I've met some great people during all these years. It's a homecoming for a lot of people who come back to play in it."

