

The Amateur and the Professional

Shelley MacDougall recently sent me a book called **Turning Pro** by Steven Pressfield. We had previously read his book **The War of Art** and are also fans of **The Legend of Bagger Vance**. When I received the book I read it immediately and wrote to Shelley to say thank you. I also reported that I saw myself as a Professional with Amateur tendencies. Of course there are many things where I am clearly an amateur and there is nothing wrong with that. I have loved the game of golf since I watched the U.S. Open at the age of 12. After a lot of years of playing the game I am clearly an amateur.

I think we have learned to judge ourselves and others as either good or bad, right or wrong but in *Turning Pro*, Pressfield suggests we can just consider whether parts of what we do are consistent with being an amateur or a professional. I have included two lists from the book that describe traits of an amateur and traits of a professional. I challenge you to take a look at these lists and share them with members of your team, your family or someone who is just interested in turning pro.

The Amateur is terrified

The Amateur is an egotist

The Amateur lives by the opinions of others

The Amateur permits fear to stop him/her from acting

The Amateur is easily distracted

The Amateur seeks instant gratification

The Amateur is jealous

The Amateur lacks compassion for him/herself

The Amateur seeks permission

The Amateur lives for the future

The Amateur lives in the past

The Amateur will be ready tomorrow

The Amateur gives his/her power away to others

The Amateur is asleep

The Professional shows up every day

The Professional stays on the job all day

The Professional is committed over the long haul

For the Professional the stakes are high and real

The Professional is patient

The Professional seeks order

The Professional demystifies

The Professional acts in the face of fear

The Professional accepts no excuses

The Professional plays it as it lays

The Professional is prepared

The Professional does not show off

The Professional dedicates him/herself to mastering technique

The Professional does not hesitate to ask for help

The Professional does not take failure or success personally

The Professional does not identify with his or her instrument

The Professional endures adversity

The Professional self-validates

The Professional reinvents him/herself

The Professional is recognized by other professionals