

Kentucky Golf Foundation – Looking Back at 2008

2008 was an historic year for golf in Kentucky. The 2008 Ryder Cup, conducted at Valhalla Golf Club, ended with a victory by the United States team which included Kentuckians Kenny Perry and J.B. Holmes. Their presence was very special to us, as both are members of the Kentucky PGA and have strong connections to our organizations. For many years, Kenny Perry's Country Creek Golf Course in Franklin has hosted an event on our Pepsi Junior Golf Tour, and J.B. is a veteran of our junior golf programs, including the Pepsi Junior Tour. Just prior to the Ryder Cup, the 2008 Junior Ryder Cup was conducted at The Club at Olde Stone in Bowling Green, with the United States emerging victorious, 22-2. This marked the first occasion in which both the Ryder Cup and Junior Ryder Cup were conducted within the same state and in such close proximity.

In addition to the Ryder Cup, we entered our second year of operations at Golf House Kentucky. Since opening in late 2006, the Kentucky Golf Foundation has worked to establish Golf House Kentucky as THE home for golf in Kentucky, and over the past two years has hosted leaders from the Women's Kentucky State Golf Association, the Kentucky Turfgrass Council, the First Tee of Louisville, the Kentuckiana Chapter of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, the Kentucky Chapter of the Club Managers Association of America, the Kentucky Golf Association, Kentucky Section PGA, and Kentucky Senior Golf Association. In addition, the facility has hosted a toyraising event each year for the United States Marine Corps Reserves' Toys for Tots Program. We have also welcomed representatives from other golf organizations, including the CEO and officers of the PGA of America, representatives from the Georgia State Golf Association, Georgia PGA, Illinois PGA, Indiana Golf Association, Indiana PGA, Southern Ohio PGA, Tennessee Golf Association, Tennessee PGA, and the United States Golf Association. The facility and concept is serving as a model for other associations, and we have discussed details of our Foundation and our facility with other organizations seeking to construct a home for golf, including the Alabama Golf Association, Carolinas Golf Association, Minnesota Golf Association, and the Sun Country Amateur Golf Association.

Golf House Kentucky also welcomed additions to Kentucky Golf Hall of Fame displays in 2008, including items from the 2008 Ryder Cup. A special display, dedicated to this historic event, will be assembled and unveiled in early 2009. We also added the Women's Kentucky Amateur Championship Runner-Up Cup, which now accompanies the Women's Kentucky Amateur Championship Trophy at Golf House Kentucky.

To assist in promoting and developing junior golf in Kentucky, listed below are some efforts and initiatives from 2008:

- In January, we conducted and hosted a junior golf summit for junior golf leaders from Kentucky and other states, including Indiana, Missouri, Southern California, Florida, and Tennessee.
- We launched the Gay Brewer, Jr. Grant Program, which provides financial assistance to junior golfers from Kentucky with the ability to compete at the regional and national level, and who need financial assistance to do so. In 2008, \$10,000 in grants was distributed among five junior golfers to assist them in their quest to showcase their skills.
- We provided direct support to the following organizations:
 - Kentucky PGA Foundation – This organization supports junior golf and growth of the game programs across Kentucky each year, and in 2008, supported Special Olympics Kentucky's golf program and the Don Fightmaster Golf Outing for Exceptional Children.
 - Fred Allen Fund – This fund provides financial assistance each year to junior golfers from Kentucky who qualify for the U.S. Junior Amateur and U.S. Girls' Junior Championships.
 - Kentucky High School Athletic Association Golf Championships – Our donation was used to assist in providing Rules Officials for this important junior golf championship.

Looking ahead to 2009, the Kentucky Golf Foundation will continue its efforts to promote Golf House Kentucky and to grow its outreach and support of junior golf in Kentucky. Visit www.kygold.org for updates throughout 2009.



Since opening in late 2006, Golf House Kentucky has welcomed numerous visitors and allied golf organizations



Kentucky's Kenny Perry and J.B. Holmes helped bring the Ryder Cup back to the U.S.



Ryder Cup display in the lobby at Golf House Kentucky



Bettie Lou Evans and the late Ray Ottman were inducted into the Kentucky Golf Hall of Fame



The Gay Brewer, Jr. Grant Program provided \$10,000 in assistance to junior golfers from across Kentucky



Our junior golf programs, including the Pepsi Junior Golf Tour, combined to reach hundreds of junior golfers across Kentucky in 2008