



2014 KPGA JUNIOR GOLF LEADER AWARD NOMINATION

Name of Nominee: M. Todd Butts
Facility Name: Drake Creek Golf Club
Facility Address: 1 Torrey Pines Drive, Ledbetter, KY 42058
Facility Phone Number: 270-898-4653
Nominee E-mail Address: drakecreek@bellsouth.net

- 1. Please briefly describe the nominee's contributions to junior golf programs in the Section and on a National level including service as a chairperson or a member of the Junior Golf Committee.**

In 2005, Todd Butts developed the Junior Golf Program at Drake Creek Golf Club. It quickly became the largest Junior Golf Programs in far-western Kentucky, for girls and boys age 5-15. In 2009, he developed Operation State Tournament, another junior program specifically designed for golfers age 13-17 who compete on high school teams.

Butts' programs have helped the Kentucky Section by growing the game in rural, underserved golf counties in far-western Kentucky. In 2013 over 125 juniors from 8 Kentucky counties participated in Butts' summer-long junior programs. For some participants, Butts' programs are their only golfing opportunities.

- 2. Please briefly describe the nominee's involvement in the promotion and development of junior golf at the club level and within the community.**

The Drake Creek Junior Golf Program is the only junior golf program in the area that is open to the public, operated by PGA Professionals, and hosted at a championship golf course. Butts believes these elements are critical in order to involve and develop as many juniors as possible.

Butts' utilizes a variety of marketing techniques to promote his programs. He sends emails and texts to his extensive database of over 4,000 local golfers. He's negotiated with local schools to send home his junior golf applications in student's backpacks. And he makes sure local high school golf coaches provide his materials to their players.

Within the community Butts has even taken the initiative to involve underprivileged children. He's been able to provide several need-based scholarships by utilizing local sponsors and grants from the Kentucky Golf Foundation

When it comes to developing junior golfers, Butts knows that improving playing ability is an important objective, but it's not the only goal. Butts works hard to make sure his programs are fun and enjoyable.

To this end, his programs have been strategically designed to enhance the total development (social, physical, emotional, and mental) of all participants. He maintains the interest of juniors by insuring golfers participate on the course and in short game and full swing clinics each week. His Operation State Tournament program includes "Big Break" competitions, college style practice sessions, rules and etiquette seminars, and course strategy sessions.

Butts knows that golf has to be fun in order to keep juniors involved for a lifetime.

3. Please briefly describe the nominee's image and leadership in the area of junior golf and the nominee's overall integrity.

Most junior golfers in far western Kentucky know Todd Butts and about the junior golf opportunities offered at Drake Creek Golf Club. In addition to Drake Creek's Junior Golf and Operation State Tournament programs, Butts also runs the area's largest junior tournament (The West Kentucky Junior Golf Championship), organizes an annual Adult-Youth Tournament, and hosts high school golf matches for two schools. He also developed The West Kentucky College Golf Showcase, which provides high school golfers an opportunity to showcase their skills to college coaches. It would be nearly impossible to participate in junior golf in west Kentucky without meeting Todd Butts and participating in one of his events or programs.

Butts' overall integrity is demonstrated by the fact he maintains relationships with his junior golfers long after they finish his programs. Whether they go on to compete at high levels or whether they become weekend warriors, Butts appreciates the fact he's been a part of their development. For Butts, there's no such thing as a former student.

4. Please briefly describe how the nominee inspires fellow PGA Professionals and promotes the game of golf.

Butts instills his philosophies to his apprentice professionals by making sure they are involved in all facets of his programs. The quality of Butts' programs is demonstrated not just by the fact that they serve golfers from 8 counties, but that they are popular among local professionals who confidently recommend them to their students.

In life, where you start is not as important as where you finish. But in golf, where you start is very important. Butts understands his primary objectives are to introduce juniors to golf and then provide playing opportunities that are fun and enjoyable. Butts strives to build a solid golf foundation that produces lifelong golfers.

5. Please list any Section or National awards the nominee has received

| Award | Year Received | Section |
|-------|---------------|---------|
| None | None | None |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |