

Gay Brewer Grant Application

PART I - APPLICANT INFORMATION

Full Name: Dexter Blake Evans

Address: P.O. Box 145

City: West Liberty State: Kentucky Zip: 41472

Date of Birth: March 24, 2000

High School: Morgan County High School

Currently, I am a high school: _____ Freshman ☒ Sophomore _____ Junior _____ Senior

Parent Phone #: 606 477 5367

Applicant Email: dbevans@mrtc.com

Parent/Guardian's Email: dbevans@mrtc.com

Part II Applicant Essay

It is very hard for me to say I “deserve” to receive an award or anything for that matter. I have always been taught that great things are received through hard work whether it be earning a 3.9 GPA or sports awards. Therefore, I would be honored to receive the Gay Brewer, Jr. Grant in pursuit of my dream to become a collegiate golfer. If chosen, I would proudly represent Mr. Brewer’s family and legacy through my commitment to golf.

I guess you could say I was born to play golf. My love for the game started before I even realized it as a toddler. My birth announcement read “Daddy’s Caddy”. One of my favorite pictures is a framed memory of my dad and I on the local golf course. I was a 14 month old baby with plastic golf clubs proudly standing next to my dad on the course. That nine hole golf course has continued to be a memory maker for me as I couldn’t begin to estimate the amount of time and holes I have played on that course in the last 16 years. As I write this essay, I think how my time on that golf course has went from me following my dad’s every footstep, hitting and moving my ball to keep up with Dad to now consistently beating my dad every time we play. It is bittersweet for both my parents and myself as I continue to chase my dream of playing at the college level and beyond.

As a fifth grader the high school golf coach invited me to start practicing with the team. Although I wasn’t eligible to compete on the high school team, I welcomed the opportunity to practice and improve my game. At the beginning of my seventh grade year I was allowed to competitively join the team at Morgan County High School. My eighth grade year I missed going as to the KHSAA State Tournament as an individual by 2 strokes. Freshman year, the desire to reach state was achieved through many long hours of hard work and determination. I was honored to be the first male golfer from my school to reach the state tournament. However, I realized I just didn’t want to be at the state tournament playing, I wanted to be a top finisher. I started taking weekly golf lessons in Lexington, Kentucky. The two hour drive each way was long but worth every mile. I improved and reaped the awards this past summer.

As a member of the KYJR PGA tour I had the opportunity to play courses all over the state. During the summer of 2015 I did not win an event. However, I started the 2016 Tour Season winning my first event and continued to win events. I was humbled and honored to be named the 2016 KYJR PGA Player of the Year at the end of the tour season. As the summer tour wrapped up, I began my sophomore

golf season at my high school. I had a very successful golf season as I shot my person best of 71, played in both the All A State Tournament, and the KHSAA State tournament making the cut to play in day two of the state tournament.

I truly realize the importance of the KYJR PGA experience and want to continue to be a participant in future years. I would also like to participate in the AJGA Tour. Participating in these tours will increase my exposure with college coaches. I have truly come to realize the financial support it takes to play golf at this level. My parents have careers that support not just me but also my sister in our extracurricular activities. I know my parents have made sacrifices that have allowed me to pursue my passion for this sport that includes tournaments and travel cost. I would love to show my appreciation for their support and love. If I were to receive the Gay Brewer, Jr. Grant, my parents and I would forever be appreciative of this support that could truly be a game changer for my future. The desire and passion to succeed is within me, having this addition financial support would be an unmeasurable support to increasing my exposure with college coaches.

In closing if I must say "Why I deserve a grant" my answer would be coming from a small town I work hard and take advantage of every opportunity to better myself not only as a player but an individual. I have made consistent improvements each year to become a respected competitor. If awarded this grant, rest assure I will use it to improve my game each time I step on the course. My goal at the end of this summer is to be on the college radar putting me one step closer to my dream. I sincerely thank you for the opportunity to share my golf story and for the support you are showing young golfers around the state. I hope to one day myself be able to help support another person's dream. Thank you.

Part III Performance Record

2015 KY Junior PGA Tour:

Juniper Hills Spring Regional—8th place 1st Round 85, 2nd Round 79

Winchester Country Club—7th Place 85

University Club of KY—6th Place 79

Summer Regional at Keene Trace Golf Course—17th Place 1st Round 88, 2nd Round 94

Eagle Trace Golf Course—5th Place 89

2015 High School Golf:

Qualified in Regional Golf Tournament for KHSAA State Tournament as an Individual with a score of 78

Participated in the KHSAA State Tournament and finished with a round of 80 and missed the cut.

2016 KY Junior PGA Tour:

Marriott Griffin Gate—1st place 89

Juniper Hills Spring Regional—6th place 1st Round 80 and 2nd Round 86

Eagle Trace Golf Course—1st place 74

Junior PGA Championship—Tie for 45th +22 over 2 rounds

Bowling Green CC—tie for 7th 79

University of KY Club—Tie 2nd 81

Winchester CC—1st Place 78

KY Jr Amateur—Tie for 76th +20 over 2 rounds

Eagle Trace Golf Course—1st place 77

Hidden Cove Summer Regional—2nd place +14 over 2 rounds

Junior Combo at Keene Trace and Champion Trace—1st place +7 over 2 rounds

Bellefonte CC—1st place 79

KYPGA Junior Championship Keene Run—Tie for 13th +19 over 2 rounds

2016 High School Golf:

Laurel Oaks Classic—2nd place with personal best 71 (-1) in tournament play

Qualified as an individual in the Regional Tournament for the KHSAA State Tournament by finishing 2nd overall with a score of 76

Participated in the KHSAA State Tournament and finished Tied for 32nd overall with a 2 day combined score of +12 (75) and (81).

Part IV Parent Narrative

Our son would be honored to be a Justin Thomas Grant recipient. Blake's determination, work ethic, and positive attitude have brought him much success. As a sophomore, he has maintained a 3.9 GPA on a college curriculum while competing in two varsity sports-golf and basketball. Blake's dream is to be a collegiate golfer. He realizes the hours of practice and work it takes to succeed at this level.

Blake has just started his third year on the KYJR PGA this year. Although the talent was there, his first year he had several disappointing rounds. At the completion of the year, Blake made the decision and approached us about taking professional lessons during the off season. We started and continue today the weekly trip to Lexington, KY to provide him this opportunity to improve his game. We feel he takes complete advantage of his time during his lesson as he is focused and continues to improve each time he steps on the course. Year two on the tour was a success ending with Blake being named the 2016 Player of the Year for 15/16 year old boys. This summer Blake moved to the 17/18 old division where he has started equally as well. Winning two events to date and being awarded a Golden Ticket for a chance to play in the Junior PGA National Tournament.

Anyone associated with golf knows the expense one can incur with equipment, clothing, entry fees, and travel expenses. We are both full-time professionals, however with two children in competitive sports the expenses quickly escalate in pursuit of dreams. If Blake were to receive this generous grant, it would provide him with more opportunities than we are financially able to provide at this time. The cost to play on tour requires many overnight accommodations and extra practice rounds in addition to tournament entry fees. This is financially difficult for any family. We know that Blake's desire is to play at the collegiate level. The importance of state and national exposure from playing on the tours is key to his success.

As parents, we want to give Blake every advantage and opportunity. Working full-time, it is still hard to meet the demands on our incomes. Blake has always been our model son. There is no greater experience than having the privilege to raise Blake. Watching him grow from a little boy following his dad's every footstep to a professional young man is truly our reward. Rest assure, Blake will continue to work hard and improve his golf game. It would be both an honor and blessing to receive this grant. He

would be proud and humbled to honor your commitment to golf. We just ask you to consider Blake for this generous gift so that he can be given every opportunity to reach his dreams.

Thank you for your time.

Brian and Jenny Evans