



PGA
Kentucky Section

2019 KPGA YOUTH PLAYER DEVELOPMENT AWARD NOMINATION

Name of Nominee: Donnie A. Caldwell, PGA
Facility Name: Wasioto Winds / The First Tee Pine Mountain
Facility Address: 114 Highway 190 Pineville, KY 40977
Facility Phone Number: (606)-337-1066 / (800)-814-8002
Nominee E-mail Address: donniecaldwellpga@yahoo.com

The nomination form should be typewritten.

1. Please briefly describe the nominee's contributions to youth golf programs in the Section and on a National level including service as a chairperson or a member of the Junior Golf Committee/Youth Player Development Committee.
 - Over 25 years golf industry experience in Florida and Kentucky Section PGA (13 years as a PGA Member in Kentucky)
 - Over 18 Years of experience with The First Tee as Program Director (Kentucky)
 - Several Roles with The First Tee locally and nationally:
 - The First Tee Master Coach (1 of 9 worldwide) Drug Prevention- Project
 - Program Director – The First Tee Pine Mountain (1 of 5 in Kentucky)
 - National Trainer – The First Tee Home Office (1 of 10 national)
 - National Academy Coach (8 years)
 - San Diego, CA/Nashville, TN/ Manhattan, KS / New York / Eugene, OR
 - Golf Skills Curriculum Committee
 - Life Skills Experience Committee
 - Chapter Advisory Committee
 - Daily Operations at Pine Mountain State Resort Park as Golf Professional promoting Drive, Chip, & Putt/ The First Tee / LPGA Girls' Golf / daily play
 - Successful team member in securing over 3.5 million in college scholarships at Georgetown College, Union College, and Lincoln Memorial University for over 35 participants of The First Tee through The Scholar's Program.
 - Served (Kentucky Section) committees on:
 - Growth of the Game, Junior Golf

Served on Diversity Awareness Committee with PGA of America meeting at PGA Headquarters joining Mr. Ernie Ellison and Joe Steranka on early initiatives and improvements for youth of all social strata.

- Program Director for LPGA Girls' Golf of Pineville, KY

2. Please briefly describe the nominee's involvement in the promotion and development of youth golf at the club level and within the community.
- Promoted Kentucky Golf in schools by getting a program approved in 20 locations across and 4 Drive Locations impacting over 1000 youth
 - Promoted Kentucky PGA Junior Golf Tour hosting events and travelling with juniors across the state for the past 18 years.
 - Established a programming location at Lincoln Memorial University for advanced juniors
 - Created "Competitive Edge" for juniors from 10 local schools with 48 youth geared towards competitive golf with two divisions 12-15 and college prep 16-18/ shared as a Best Practice in The First Tee
 - Targeted growth of the game with females by securing a Host Site for LPGA Girls' Golf in the mountains of Southern Kentucky. Since inception, eight of these young ladies have become college golfers
 - Locally, 16 Kentucky juniors have had the trip of a lifetime to compete in The First Tee Open / The Pure Insurance Open at the historic – Pebble Beach. These fortunate Kentucky juniors have had the pleasure to play alongside Kenny Perry, Bernhard Langer, Kenny Knox, Jeff Maggert, Mark McCumber, John Cook, and Russ Cochran to name a few. One junior was also awarded an opportunity to play alongside, hall of famer, Annika Sorenstam this year at The Broadmoor. Locally, it is easy to say these juniors would likely not have played on the Golf Channel telecast or along side these golf greats without this PGA Professional's focus on growing the game in the Kentucky Section PGA.
3. Please briefly describe the nominee's image and leadership in the area of youth golf and the nominee's overall integrity.
- Considered a pioneer in The First Tee community for the past 18 years by helping thousands of young people across the nation and mentoring numerous young people and coaches in the golf industry.
 - Invited to be a National Trainer for The First Tee due to longstanding knowledge and image in the golf world
 - Instills the following motto with young people and teenagers –
 - ***"Make choices today which you will be proud of tomorrow"***
4. Please briefly describe how the nominee inspires fellow PGA Professionals and promotes the game of golf.
- Represented the Kentucky Section at ECU Golf Management Program on Growth of Game initiatives and junior golf
 - Becoming a National Trainer presents numerous opportunities to mentor and coach young men and women through the Golf Management Program, PGA levels, LPGA, and pursuit of Professional Golf. This mentoring has resulted in lifetime friendships.

- A local course was without a Golf Professional but wanted to still host their event to keep a 100-year tradition, Donnie volunteered to work his day off and worked as the Golf Professional on scoring, rules, and trophy presentation.
- One of the simple gestures is securing beginner clubs for new golfers or families. Over the past three seasons, 125+ sets of donated clubs have been collected, reconditioned and put into the hands of non-golfers and juniors to get started. Many times these donated sets are put into the hands of both parents along with a free golf lesson to make it affordable for new families starting the game. Special thanks to supporting PGA Professionals.

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

Award	Year Received	Section
Assistant Professional of the Year	2004	Kentucky
PGA President's Council for <i>Growth of the Game</i>	2005 - 2009	Kentucky
Junior Golf Leader of the Year	2006	Kentucky
Junior Golf Leader of the Year	2007	Kentucky
Junior Golf Leader of the Year	2009	Kentucky
Junior Golf Leader of the Year	2010	Kentucky
Golf Professional of the Month (November)	2011	Kentucky
Junior Golf Leader of the Year	2012	Kentucky
Youth Development Leader of the Year	2014	Kentucky
Youth Development Leader of the Year	2015	Kentucky

Deadline – December 10, 2018

Return forms to:
Kentucky PGA
Golf House Kentucky
1116 Elmore Just Drive
Louisville, KY 40245
(502) 243-9266 fax

Email Word documents to:
csaner@kygolf.org





PGA
Kentucky Section

2019 KPGA YOUTH PLAYER DEVELOPMENT AWARD NOMINATION

Name of Nominee: Robert Costello
Facility Name: Nevel Meade Golf Course
Facility Address: 3123 Nevel Meade Drive, Prospect KY 40059
Facility Phone Number: 503-228-9522
Nominee E-mail Address: Robert@nevelmeade.com

The nomination form should be typewritten.

1. Please briefly describe the nominee's contributions to youth golf programs in the Section and on a National level including service as a chairperson or a member of the Junior Golf Committee/Youth Player Development Committee.

I do not have experience as a chairperson or a member of a Junior Golf Committee/Youth Player Development Committee although that is a goal of mine going forward!

2. Please briefly describe the nominee's involvement in the promotion and development of youth golf at the club level and within the community.
I was hired as the Head Professional at Nevel Meade in December of 2017. Immediately I assessed the needs of our course and one thing was lacking – we did not have a junior golf program. Immediately I reached out to Kristi Egnot about PGA Junior League. I told her that I wanted to start a team and I hoped that there was room for us in a nearby league. It all worked out very well and we got into a league with Oldham Co Country Club, Hunting Creek CC, Harmony Landing CC, and Seneca GC. I started to promote and advertise the program as much as possible. Before long I had 24 junior golfers signed up. We had practice once a week as well as a clinic in which other junior golfers who were not apart of the team could sign up and learn. On top of the practices, clinics, and matches I also did

many individual junior golf lessons and have kept that going this winter with a series of indoor lessons for junior golfers.

One thing I was also able to do was implement golf in schools by going to Harmony Elementary and working with the kids there and teaching them the game of golf. I utilized the inflatables from Golf House KY and it has been a great success. We are planning for more sessions in 2019.

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

This year I was lucky enough to be in a position that allowed me to start a new junior golf program. Not only did we have 24 junior golfers in our summer program, we also had another 16 junior golfers sign up for our fall program. We hosted a junior golf banquet at the end of the summer program where I gave each one of the junior golfers an award and gave one junior our coveted Sportsmanship award that goes to the junior golfer that shows our program's core values throughout the season. After the banquet wrapped up we had many parents and junior golfers that did not want the season to end, so we developed a fall program and designed it similar to PGA Jr league. We played matches against Seneca and Persimmon Ridge and had practices twice a week.

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

I'm constantly focused on growing the game of golf and this year I made it one of my biggest goals to not only start a junior golf program at Nevel Meade, but make sure that it continues to grow. I believe that by starting a junior golf program and having success with that program that I am setting an example for other golf professionals to strive to constantly grow the game and to have confidence when implementing new programs.

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

Award	Year Received	Section
Assistant Golf Professional of the Year	2017	Kentucky

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PGA

Kentucky Section

2019 KPGA YOUTH PLAYER DEVELOPMENT AWARD NOMINATION

Name of Nominee: Jason Eberle
Facility Name: Gibson Bay Golf Course
Facility Address: 2000 Gibson Bay Dr. Richmond, KY 40475
Facility Phone Number: 859-623-0225
Nominee E-mail Address: eberlegolf@gibsonbay.com

The nomination form should be typewritten.

1. Please briefly describe the nominee's contributions to youth golf programs in the Section and on a National level including service as a chairperson or a member of the Junior Golf Committee/Youth Player Development Committee.

I serve on the section Growth of the Game Committee. Our facility has hosted events on the following junior tours: KYPGA Junior Tour, Southeast Kentucky Junior Tour, and US Kids Golf Tour. Additionally I serve on the PGA Golf Management at ECU Advisory Board.

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

In our community and at Gibson Bay Golf Course I am extremely involved in Junior Golf. We have over 130 kids that participate in our junior golf programs in some fashion every year. We offer after school golf clinics for boys in the spring and fall. We have after school girl's golf in the spring and fall as well and we are participating in USGA LPGA Girls golf as part of our curriculum. We also offer advanced junior clinics after school in the spring for the students with aspirations of competing on the statewide junior tours. In the summer we offer weekly golf classes as well. We average about 30 kids in each after school class and about 75 kids in our weekly summer clinics. We participate in PGA Junior League Golf as well during the summer. This year we had 6 PGA Junior

League Teams and about 70 participants. This season rather than having a fall series of PGA Junior League, we created our own local fall tour. The goal of the tour was to take our PGA Junior League Golfers and graduate them from scramble format to medal play. We averaged about 25 golfers at 6 medal play events. The players played the same yardages and rules as PGA Junior League except they competed in stroke play rather than team scramble competition. The players competed in girls and boys divisions and within age groups, all 13 and under.

Additionally, I give a minimum of 330 private lessons to junior golfers every year. We convert our pro shop into an indoor training area with a launch monitor and provide year round instruction.

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

Working as an operator at a municipal facility has become more and more challenging in recent years. As rounds of play have declined, our market has become more competitive. We have worked very hard to make our golf facility a valuable asset for the City of Richmond. I think that our passion and success in the area of Junior Golf has not only created a positive image in the community for me, but for our facility.

Additionally, I have been very involved with High School golf in our community. I have instructed students on the golf high school teams at every high school in our county both boys and girls. I host a match at the end of the season for all the schools in the county and provide some food for the players. We have all the boys teams out and have the girls on a different night. All the coaches in our community will reach out to me in the summer and I will put them in contact with the players that are coming up at their particular school.

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

When our PGA Junior League participation stopped growing because of scheduling and travel conflicts, I brought together some area golf professionals and helped organize our PGA Junior League into a closed league for kids in our area. I coordinated all the scheduling and organized team and group practices for players. We ended up working with the University Club at Arlington and Winchester Country Club, we had enough kids for 9 teams and two divisions.

Not only have we had some success with growing the game at the clinic and PGA Junior League levels, many of our students have become very competitive golfers. Our largest local high school, Madison Central, finished 3rd in the KHSAA Girls State Tournament and 4th in the KHSAA Boys State Tournament, I would argue that no other public school had close to that level of overall success. Additionally one of my students finished as the runner up in the Women's Western Amateur in Chicago this summer. An additional student has won the OVC Player of the Week multiple times this semester and had the lowest scoring average in the OVC.

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

Award	Year Received	Section
Public MOY	1997, 2002,2003,2008	Kentucky

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2019 KPGA YOUTH PLAYER DEVELOPMENT AWARD NOMINATION

Name of Nominee: Michael Finney
Facility Name: University of Louisville Golf Club
Facility Address: 401 Champions Way
Facility Phone Number: 502-852-8452
Nominee E-mail Address: mfinney6@icloud.com

The nomination form should be typewritten.

1. Please briefly describe the nominee's contributions to youth golf programs in the Section and on a National level including service as a chairperson or a member of the Junior Golf Committee/Youth Player Development Committee.

I have conducted the Cardinal Junior Golf Academy for the past three seasons. I offer junior programs on a monthly basis to avoid the need for long term commitments. I will have 15 to 40 junior golfers involved in four different programs throughout the season. I am the only instructor in the program and the kids receive a unified message for all aspects of golf – swing mechanics, fitness, course strategy, tournament prep, and goal setting.

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

I promote junior golf by offering several different programs that appeal to juniors across the spectrum of experience. The Cardinal Junior Golf Academy is for development for more experienced juniors looking for actual instruction. The Young Guns program is for 10 and unders regardless of experience who want to be exposed to the game and at the

same time receive quality instruction that they might not get at a country club clinic. The Practice sessions are just that – “open gym” style practices for advanced players who want access to the great facilities at ULGC and an occasional second eye when they have questions about their swing.

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

I think I have a pretty good reputation as having the ability to develop players and provide sound instructional fundamentals. Since I’m the only instructor for all programs, I feel like I deliver the best and most consistent message to all of my junior participants. My overall integrity is intact and respected by juniors and parents.

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

I feel like I inspire other golf professionals to dig deep and study research that has normally been out of reach for the rank and file PGA member. I feel like I promote golf by dispensing accurate information that speeds the development process.

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

Award	Year Received	Section
Horton Smith Award	2018	Kentucky

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PGA

Kentucky Section

2019 KPGA YOUTH PLAYER DEVELOPMENT AWARD NOMINATION

Name of Nominee: Derrick R. Griffitts, PGA Certified Professional

Facility Name: Clear Creek Golf Center – Shelby Co. Parks

Facility Address: 717 Burks Branch Rd.

Facility Phone Number: Shelbyville, KY 40065

Nominee E-mail Address: griffitts@pga.com

The nomination form should be typewritten.

1. Please briefly describe the nominee's contributions to youth golf programs in the Section and on a National level including service as a chairperson or a member of the Junior Golf Committee/Youth Player Development Committee.

Many of Derrick's contributions to Section/National based youth golf programs are a result of his service on numerous section committees. Most recently, Derrick has served on the Player Development Committee (2017 & 2018) and has been involved in the continued development of numerous youth golf programs. These programs include PGA Jr. League, DCP, Youth on Course, and the Middle School Championship.

Most notably, Derrick has been an advocate of and contributor to in the development of PGA Jr. League in Kentucky since the inaugural season in 2013. As one of the few original teams in KY, and Co-Director/Founder of a local multi-facility "small town" league, he worked closely with Junior League Golf, LLC, providing feedback necessary to tailor the program/website to organizations such as the Shelbyville PGA Jr. League. Derrick was outspoken that coordination through our section was vital and remained a proponent for the Section's coordination of workshops, schedules, and tournament play. The league structure changed to Section-operated in 2016. Derrick continued his commitment to PGA Jr. League, and worked to assist in its progress via the Player Development Director (Kim Shafer). He has attended many workshops, committee meetings, and continues to share the blueprint for the Shelbyville PGA Jr. League to guide other facilities in structuring multi-facility "small town" leagues.

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

Club Level

As a PGA Certified Professional in Player Development, and with a degree in Marketing from the University of Kentucky, many of Derrick's in-house programs, promotions, and standard practices are strategically focused on building youth demand for the game.



Programs such as Derrick's *The Golf Mission* work to open new paths to the game for youth that may not have any connection, or resources, to play the game. This lack of connection is cultural; they have limited family or friends connected to the game, and this lack of cultural connection transcends financial status. Through this program, children involved in local outreach programs are matched with an elder golfer to work in a mentoring environment. Outreach programs such as Shelby Prevention, Father's Love Church, and school resource offices have been worked with to date. Many of these elders are retirees at Derrick's current facility or play at other local facilities. With 2018 being the inaugural year, he registered 4 youth in the program, with 2 receiving year-long mentors. By utilizing programs such as Youth on Course®, GoFundMe®, and receiving more than 1,000 donated clubs locally, Derrick hopes to provide many more mentorship opportunities in his community in the years ahead. Through thegolfmission.com, Derrick is also working to establish a national platform for PGA Professionals to develop their own local mentoring program. Other programs Derrick utilizes at his facility are GolfStepz® and the Green Raiders Jr. Golf Club.



Promotions such as Derrick's "Kids Golf Free at The Creek" works to build lasting connections for kids with adult family members, neighbors, or family friends. Conducted at Clear Creek Golf Center, this program allows any child under 16 years of age to receive matching items of a paid adult every day after 12 pm. For youth playing with members, they receive the same member benefits of the member when accompanied by that member. The promotion covers greens fees, cart fees, and range fees, and has a limit of one youth per paid adult. Additionally, the youth is restricted to playing a "Circle 6 & 8" rule. This promotion has increased the number of family groups significantly and allows many local youths new channels to access golf.

Standard Practices such as Derrick's "Free Ball & Sticker" policy leaves a lasting impression on all kids coming to the golf shop. Whether playing golf or just accompanying someone visiting, each child gets a golf ball of their choice from the ball tub (i.e. usually their favorite color, cool logo, or interesting name) and a sticker to remind them of their experience. Golf shop staff are encouraged to participate and to view their role as ambassadors to the game for the youth. Each year the policy serves between 200-300 kids, with each encouraged to take great care of their "special" golf ball. Especially rewarding is when the kids bring back their golf ball showing it has not been lost. Yes, the tub is completely full of golf balls, holding approximately 5,000.



Within the Community

Shelbyville PGA Jr. League – Derrick serves as the Co-Director/Founder/League Administrator for the Shelbyville PGA Jr. League. Created in 2013, the league was the first in the area to bring multiple facilities together for regular season play. Along with



fellow PGA Member Bryan Slone, they promoted at community events, presented to local government, and developed a league that served as a blueprint for others in the area. With upwards of 60 kids annually, spread across 3 facilities with 4 teams, the league has become a staple of junior golf in Shelbyville, and has facilitated enormous growth in the 4 high school golf teams. The success has been so great the schools have developed JV/ Middle School squads. In 2016, the Clear Creek Team shared the title of largest team in the state with 26 participants, and since 2013 the Shelbyville PGA Jr. League has sent multiple All-Star teams to the State Tournament. Derrick hosted the first KY PGA Jr. League State Championship at Clear Creek in 2013.

Shelby County Jr. Golf Foundation – Derrick serves as Co-Founder/Vice Chairman of the SCJGF. Founded in 2018, the foundation is early in its history but has set forth goals of supporting the continued development of junior golf in Shelby County. Structured as a 501C3, the foundation works to organize fundraisers and collect private donations for the purpose of funding scholarships, providing resources for junior golf activities, and to create new “golf support” jobs for high school youth. The 2018 Shelbyville City Golf Championship fundraiser was postponed due to changes at one participating facility. However, plans are underway for a revamp to the format in 2019. To date, the foundation has raised approximately \$800 towards junior golf activities in Shelby County.

Clear Creek Summer Camps – Derrick annually works with the local parks Youth Services Department and participates in their Outdoor Sports & Education Camp. He provides golf education and weekly instruction to approximately 8-10 campers for the 10-week camp. Throughout the camp, Derrick works with those who have limited golf exposure, and some who suffer from physical/mental disabilities, including Downs Syndrome and ADHD.

Community Events – Derrick annually participates in numerous community events providing free instruction and games for youth attendees. At these events he utilizes inflatables and Snag[®] golf sets provided by Golf House KY. In 2018 and in most years since 2013, he has participated in the Shelby County Chamber of Commerce Showcase and the UK Extension Office Health & Fitness Fun Day. At both events, he distributes information on PGA Jr. League, The Golf Mission, and Summer Clinics. For each event, he gives approximately 75 to 100 lessons to local youth.

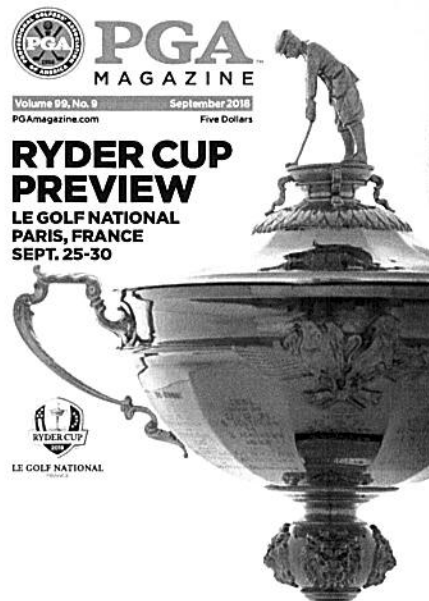


School Events – Derrick routinely works with local schools in a multitude of environments. In 2018, he hosted Physical Education classes from Shelby County High School multiple days per week for 6 weeks. He worked with the teacher to provide golf instruction to support the established lesson plans. Approximately 100 students per day attended the golf course. As well, Derrick hosted 15 students from Shelby County West Middle’s R.O.C.K. Program to provide a turf education event to satisfy their science and community service requirements. During the program, he explained various turf growing habits, turf growing requirements, proper seeding techniques, and had time where students helped seed/replace divots on the range.



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

In 2018, Derrick was blessed with another great group of kids for PGA Jr. League. One of those sixteen players suffered from autism and made quite an impact on Coach Derrick. In regard to Derrick's image, leadership, and integrity, the attached articles from PGAJLG.com, PGA.com, and "The Sentinel News" showcase his character better than any words on this application. The nominee was unaware of this media until contacted by the PGA's marketing contractor. Needless to say, he was humbled that a parent would contact the PGA to tell their family's story and how vital Derrick's role was in their experience. Articles attached at end of application.



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

Inspiring Other PGA Professionals – Derrick believes that being a resource to others and leading by example are the best ways he can inspire other professionals to be their best. He routinely works with other PGA Professionals and Associates in supporting growth of the game initiatives, shared clinics, and local fundraisers. Frequently, he shares his breadth of knowledge in golf club repair, PGA education coursework, and turfgrass management to help better other PGA Professionals and Associates.

Derrick takes great pride in his role as a PGA Professional. As a 14-year PGA Member, he continuously works to showcase the talents and skills of all PGA Professionals. Along with being a PGA Professional, Derrick is in his 7th season as Golf Course Superintendent of Clear Creek Golf Center, a 9-hole executive course owned and operated by Shelby County Parks. As superintendent, he is directly responsible for chemical applications, irrigation repair, equipment operation, work release inmates, and is also turf manager for multiple athletic fields.

Promotion of the Game - Just as golf's role in recreation and lifestyle activities are ever-changing, Derrick's strategy is to remain fluid in promotional activities. Promoting the game can be difficult in our digital age, as achieving the true physical experience is limited by what some can feel through a screen. Many people today find pleasure and fulfillment in experiencing other's lives, versus living their own. People look for immediate pleasure, bypassing the experience of learning something new. We all know golf is not a game of perfection, and it is definitely a game that requires patience. All of these factors require an ever-changing strategy of promotion and marketing, so there are core principles that Derrick uses to achieve success.

The guiding principles of Derrick's promotion of golf are all rooted in the following:

- Get a person to take a swing, and you have a great chance of making a golfer.
- Promote the life necessities fulfilled by golf (physical fitness, social interaction, building discipline, and achieving mental well-being).
- Golf is best learned in pairs.
- Golf is less about score, and more about life.
- Never pass on an opportunity to share your passion for the game of golf.

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

Award	Year Received	Section
Player Development	2017	Kentucky
Player Development	2016	Kentucky
Media Representative	2007	Kentucky
Acushnet Scholarship	2004	Kentucky

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Birdie-Making Brayden: Finding Friendship and Belonging Through PGA Jr. League

By PGA of America, 07/16/18, 3:15PM EDT
Share

A last-ditch effort to involve her autistic son in team sports sparked a lifetime love of the game and a new sense of self-confidence

For 12-year-old Brayden Dugle, team sports seemed impossible.

Brayden's mom, Megan Dugle, wanted nothing more than her son to enjoy and succeed in sports. Brayden is autistic, and with this comes difficulties socializing and communicating, as well as sensory issues.

"Baseball, basketball, soccer... you name it, we have tried it."

It wasn't long before golf came to mind. Megan had taken lessons at one point and thought private lessons would be a good place for Brayden to start, too. Turns out, he was a natural.

Not long after starting lessons, it was suggested that Brayden was ready to give PGA Jr. League a try. So, Megan reached out to Clear Creek Golf Course PGA Jr. League Captain Derrick "Coach Derrick" Griffiths, PGA, and explained their situation.

"We have dealt with bullying to the extreme at school, and Brayden always felt like he did not fit in. Derrick welcomed him with open arms, and so have the other kids. It says a lot about Derrick as a coach and the values he has instilled in his players," she said.



Griffitts has worked with kids with Down syndrome, ADHD, and autism. Ultimately, he believes every child has different needs. For example, a child whose parents have athletic aspirations and expectations that go beyond his/her abilities, or one who is still trying to figure out if they are right- or left-handed. Adding personal touches to his coaching makes a positive impact on his players.

"We absolutely try to cater to each kid on an individual level. And as a team, we strive to be welcoming to the challenges that each kid faces," said Griffitts.

At the very first PGA Jr. League practice of the season, Griffitts assigns every player a nickname based on the first letter of his or her first name. They have an Even-Par Ethan, a Long-Putt Lilly... and a Birdie- Making Brayden.

"So instead of working to fit in, they are already in."

And Brayden clearly felt that, too. When asked about his nickname, he said, "It helped me feel more comfortable and not so nervous on the first day."

PGA Jr. League has been an outlet for Brayden to make friends and to gain a new level of self-confidence and independence. Not only has it helped improve his skills in golf, but it's helping in his everyday life.

As a PGA Jr. League Captain for the past six years, Griffitts has seen the positive influence of PGA Jr. League on the growth of kids emotionally and socially, as well its effect on the growth of the game as a whole. "We are creating lifelong golfers out of PGA Jr. League because they are easing into the game. It is a game first. We enjoy each other's company and experiences, and only then do we start working on golf skills," he commented.

Not only does Griffiths see how PGA Jr. League brings the kids closer together, but it also brings families together at the course.

"It's fulfilling to see Brayden's mom and little sister at every practice and match. They enjoy it, and it's cool to see it. It's another connection to the game they are making. Maybe mom will want to play, and little sister may decide she wants to play, too."

For Brayden, that sense of community and belonging is powerful. While out on the course with his mom one Saturday, one of his teammates saw him, waved, and asked how his game was going. While that may sound like an ordinary interaction between two kids, it is little things like this that Megan knows boost her son's confidence.

"PGA Jr. League has been an outlet for Brayden to make friends and to gain a new level of self-confidence and independence. Not only has it helped improve his skills in golf, but it's helping in his everyday life," she said.



Brayden added, "Coach Derrick always says that if you are better than you were yesterday, then you have already won. He has helped me to believe in myself and to

have confidence, and he's taught me to always have fun, show good sportsmanship, cheer for everyone, and have respect."

And that's what drives Brayden's Captain, too. "I really enjoy knowing when we can share our passion and give access to golf for those who think they have no way in," Griffiths said.

When asked what he'd like to say to Coach Derrick after the season ends, Brayden's answer is evidence that Griffiths' approach to the teaching and sharing his passion for golf is working.

"I just want to say thank you to him. Thank you for teaching me everything. I feel like you've lead me down a better path of golf. Thank you for giving me a chance and thank you for letting me be part of a team."

Brayden's father, Shelby County Sherriff's Deputy Paul Dugle, was involved in a serious accident shortly after his son was born that resulted in a traumatic brain injury with lifelong complications, which makes it difficult to come to the course.

When Brayden registered for PGA Jr. League, Megan selected the number 34 for his jersey — a happy surprise for Brayden, because it also happens to be his dad's badge number.

"We just knew we were in the right place," she said.

Birdie-Making Brayden: Finding friendship and belonging through PGA Jr. League



For 12-year-old Brayden Dugle, team sports seemed impossible.

Brayden's mom, Megan Dugle, wanted nothing more than her son to enjoy and succeed in sports. Brayden is autistic, and with this comes difficulties socializing and communicating, as well as sensory issues.

"Baseball, basketball, soccer... you name it, we have tried it."

It wasn't long before golf came to mind. Megan had taken lessons at one point and thought private lessons would be a good place for Brayden to start, too. Turns out, he was a natural.

RELATED: PGA Jr. League offers inclusive learning environment for young golfers

Not long after starting lessons, it was suggested that Brayden was ready to give PGA Jr. League a try. So, Megan reached out to Clear Creek Golf Course PGA Jr. League Captain Derrick “Coach Derrick” Griffiths, PGA, and explained their situation.

“We have dealt with bullying to the extreme at school, and Brayden always felt like he did not fit in. Derrick welcomed him with open arms, and so have the other kids. It says a lot about Derrick as a coach and the values he has instilled in his players,” she said.

Griffiths has worked with kids with Down syndrome, ADHD, and autism. Ultimately, he believes every child has different needs. For example, a child whose parents have athletic aspirations and expectations that go beyond his/her abilities, or one who is still trying to figure out if they are right- or left-handed. Adding personal touches to his coaching makes a positive impact on his players.

“We absolutely try to cater to each kid on an individual level. And as a team, we strive to be welcoming to the challenges that each kid faces,” said Griffiths.

At the very first PGA Jr. League practice of the season, Griffiths assigns every player a nickname based on the first letter of his or her first name. They have an Even-Par Ethan, a Long-Putt Lilly... and a Birdie- Making Brayden.

“So instead of working to fit in, they are already in.”

And Brayden clearly felt that, too. When asked about his nickname, he said, “It helped me feel more comfortable and not so nervous on the first day.”

As a PGA Jr. League Captain for the past six years, Griffiths has seen the positive influence of PGA Jr. League on the growth of kids emotionally and socially, as well its effect on the growth of the game as a whole.

RELATED: The 5 things I learned about why PGA Jr. League is great for kids

“We are creating lifelong golfers out of PGA Jr. League because they are easing into the game. It is a game first. We enjoy each other’s company and experiences, and only then do we start working on golf skills,” he commented.

Not only does Griffiths see how PGA Jr. League brings the kids closer together, but it also brings families together at the course.

“It’s fulfilling to see Brayden’s mom and little sister at every practice and match. They enjoy it, and it’s cool to see it. It’s another connection to the game they are making. Maybe mom will want to play, and little sister may decide she wants to play, too.”

For Brayden, that sense of community and belonging is powerful. While out on the course with his mom one Saturday, one of his teammates saw him, waved, and asked how his game was going. While that may sound like an ordinary interaction between two kids, it is little things like this that Megan knows boost her son’s confidence.

RELATED: How junior golfers can find summertime success

“PGA Jr. League has been an outlet for Brayden to make friends and to gain a new level of self-confidence and independence. Not only has it helped improve his skills in golf, but it’s helping in his everyday life,” she said.

Brayden added, “Coach Derrick always says that if you are better than you were yesterday, then you have already won. He has helped me to believe in

myself and to have confidence, and he's taught me to always have fun, show good sportsmanship, cheer for everyone, and have respect."

And that's what drives Brayden's Captain, too. "I really enjoy knowing when we can share our passion and give access to golf for those who think they have no way in," Griffiths said.

When asked what he'd like to say to Coach Derrick after the season ends, Brayden's answer is evidence that Griffiths' approach to the teaching and sharing his passion for golf is working.

"I just want to say thank you to him. Thank you for teaching me everything. I feel like you've lead me down a better path of golf. Thank you for giving me a chance and thank you for letting me be part of a team."

Brayden's father, Shelby County Sherriff's Deputy Paul Dugle, was involved in a serious accident shortly after his son was born that resulted in a traumatic brain injury with lifelong complications, which makes it difficult to come to the course.

When Brayden registered for PGA Jr. League, Megan selected the number 34 for his jersey -- a happy surprise for Brayden, because it also happens to be his dad's badge number.

"We just knew we were in the right place," she said.

The Sentinel-News

At home on the links

Brayden Dugle has found his place in golf, and his mother, Megan Dugle, couldn't be happier. 'The game of golf seemed to come naturally to him'

By Brian Stone

Wednesday, August 8, 2018 at 3:00 am (Updated: August 8, 3:01 am)

Early on in his life, Megan Dugle knew there was something different about her son Brayden.



Brayden Dugle drives off of a tee at Weissinger Hills as a part of the Shelby County High School golf team.

She could see that Brayden had difficulties with things other kids were mastering at an early age, and found out later that her son was eventually diagnosed with a high functioning form of autism.

"I had concerns from about 12-15 months old, lots of doctors involved in saying early intervention is key," Megan Dugle said. "Things like language delay, sensory issues, quirky things I noticed were happening. [Brayden] was not officially diagnosed until he was seven."

Despite the diagnosis, Megan Dugle made it her mission to keep her son's childhood as normal as it could be. And after finding golf, Brayden has taken great strides in areas such as social communication, something he struggled with earlier in life.

Team sports

The first foray into trying to ingratiate Brayden into golf was to get him around someone who would treat the now seventh-grader as any other kid.

Sports such as baseball, soccer and basketball ended up not being the right fit for Brayden, as the respective activities sometimes left him with little to do at times and struggled to keep his interest.

"So it [golf] was basically our last ditch effort in trying to find something for him to be involved in. We quickly realized team sports were not for him," Dugle said. "We needed an individualized sport, so we reached out to Lloyd Brown at Clear Creek. Lloyd told me he was ready to play and he had potential. It was nice having someone work with him one on one and finding something he's good at."

With an early blessing and a few lessons, it was time to get Brayden out on the course and competing in a league.

Enter Clear Creek PGA Professional Derrick Griffiths, who helps manage a Junior League team, where Brayden got his start.

"Honestly, I wasn't aware of [Brayden's autism] going in. The family may have just wanted it to be objectively handled, and to just put him in the mix. I just thought he was a quiet kid for the first couple of sessions," Griffiths said. "After getting to know the family more, I was made aware. Most of our kids have different needs, and I try to work with each of them as individuals. I just made sure he was included like the rest of the kids. I wouldn't say I did anything much different than I did with any of the other kids. I try to make all of the kids feel welcome regardless of skill level."

PGA Junior League

While golf is a very individual sport, the PGA Junior League is slightly different. Athletes participate as teams, with Brayden being assigned to Clear Creek's group.

The first thing Dugle wanted was to have Brayden engage with sportsmanship and socializing, both of which were more important than any wins or losses.

"I knew team aspects of the league, but the sport is still individualized," his mother said. "He really thrives off of the structure, and has been able to find a way of playing he was comfortable with. [The sport] is always the same, and he still has opportunity to build social skills. There's no coach on sidelines or a buzzer to beat."

Making incoming kids feel more comfortable is an important part of integrating them into the team, and to do that, Griffiths assigns a name to each athlete once they join the team.

To the PGA professional, the nickname was simple: Birdie-Making Brayden.

"We give our kids nicknames right out of the gate to make them feel included," Griffiths said. "We want to make them part of the team from day one, so I think that helped Brayden fit in. I think that helped him overcome so many obstacles originally."

"Derrick has been huge," Dugle said. "He really instilled the process of getting better and having fun. [Griffiths] has some expectations of golfers with showing sportsmanship, and for Brayden that was difficult. Derrick has been amazing to work with and very encouraging."

Once Brayden got out on the course, the hard part was over. From there, the game of golf seemed to come naturally, with all of the

golfer's quirks becoming natural fits for such a measured sport.

"He has progressed a huge amount, just to see where he was at the beginning athletically and socially," Dugle said. "I was worried about his pace of play early on, and with repetition it has been a night and day difference on the course. Seeing him the first day to now has been incredible."

Transition time

With the summer now over and the PGA Junior League wrapped for the season, Brayden has moved into playing with the Shelby County High School golf team.

Taking the lessons he has learned out on the course over the summer months has been a big boost, both from a social and athletic standpoint.

"I don't feel like there's been a huge difference from junior league to SCHS," Dugle said. "I worried about him being discouraged initially, but it hasn't been that at all. It's more been motivation for him. He's finally found sense of belonging and it's been a positive transition for him. I expect some issues to arise, but so far it has been incredible."

Griffitts says that he knew early on that Brayden would be able to compete at a high level, feeling that the now-SCHS athlete was a natural fit for the game.

"I've always said with golf it feels like the game chooses the person, even if it seems weird to say that," the Clear Creek pro said. "There are so many different aspects of the game that can reach a person. When you play nine holes, it's like reading a book where there are nine chapters. So it's almost like there are nine different games, and each hole is its own different game. Each shot is its own opportunity to achieve."

With a summer of junior league golf behind him and nearly a full season of high school golf still ahead, look for Brayden Dugle to keep overcoming obstacles and to continue growing as a golfer along with way.



PGA

Kentucky Section

2019 KPGA YOUTH PLAYER DEVELOPMENT AWARD NOMINATION

Name of Nominee: Ralph Landrum_____

Facility Name: World of Golf_____

Facility Address: 7400 Woodspoint Drive, Florence, KY 41042____

Facility Phone Number: 859-371-8255_____

Nominee E-mail Address: Rlandrum@pga.com_____

The nomination form should be typewritten.

1. Please briefly describe the nominee's contributions to youth golf programs in the Section and on a National level including service as a chairperson or a member of the Junior Golf Committee/Youth Player Development Committee.
 - A. Member of the KY Golf Foundation Board of Directors (Currently the President) which manages the KY PGA Jr. Golf Tour 2011-Present.
 - B. Member of the KY PGA Jr. Golf Committee 2009-2012
 - C. Chair-Person of the KY PGA Jr. Golf Task Force 2013
 - D. I spoke at an LPGA Girls Golf Forum in 2017 at the PGA Merchandise Show about how to increase the number of young ladies participating.
 - E. I was a speaker at Junior Golf Forum at the 2018 PGA Family and Youth Golf Summit in Orlando.
 - F. I was a member of the PGA of America's Player Development Committee 2012-2016.

2. Please briefly describe the nominee's involvement in the promotion and development of youth golf at the club level and within the community.
 - A. I began the Northern KY Middle School Golf League 20 years ago. The league continues today.
 - B. I coach the Villa Madonna Middle and High School Boys golf teams.

- C. I began a program with the Marge Schott Boys and Girls Clubs. I have raised funds, won grants and collected golf clubs for these kids. The kids were awarded scholarships to play in the PGA Jr. League.
- D. My staff or I visit as many as 5 different schools each year to teach golf in their gym classes.
- E. I began and still operate the Northern Pee Wee Golf Tournament.
- F. I began and still operate the Northern KY Middle School Golf Tournament.
- G. I have hosted the 7up, KY PGA and Greater Cincinnati Jr. Golf Tours.
- H. I partner with the Boone County YMCA to offer golf to the junior members of their club.
- I. I host the PGA Jr. Golf Camps.
- J. I offer junior golf programs year-round at World of Golf which annually will have over 400 different kids participate. We offer Pee Wee, Junior & High School Prep programs.
- K. I host an LPGA Girl Golf Program which hosts approximately 100 young women each year.
- L. I host a series of 4 Parent-Child Golf Outings each year.
- M. I give approximately 400 junior golf lessons each year.
- N. I am a US Kids Master Jr. Golf Instructor.
- O. I was the first to offer PGA Jr. Golf League in Northern KY. We hosted all of the matches the first couple of years. I average 4 PGA Jr. League Teams per year. I won the PGA Jr. League District Award in 2015. This year in addition to our PGA Jr. League I am offering a PGA Jr League Winter series using our About Golf Simulator.

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

I have tried to be the leader of junior golf in Northern KY for the past 35 years. Whether it is offering the facility to host junior events, operating various junior golf programs or coaching a school teams, I have been the constant in Northern KY junior golf. My goal has always been that when folks think of junior golf in Northern KY they think of Ralph Landrum. I have raised monies for different junior programs by applying for grants or running in marathons. I received a grant from the Golf Course Builders of America for kids who may not be able to afford clubs. I have visited schools in three counties for several different school systems and have never charged a fee for the service. I have provided instruction and offered our facility for the First Tee of Greater Cincinnati. It has become pretty common to see kids in our programs whose parents participated in

the program many years ago. Due to the many years of providing most every kind of junior program to kids who are just beginning to play or for kids who were ready to play in college, to kids of all colors and ethnicity and to kids who may not have been able to afford to participate, that my reputation as someone who cares about the game and the kids is very secure.

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

When I first began to promote junior golf programs most facilities did not offer junior instructional programs. As mentioned earlier, I was the first in the area and first PGA Member to register for PGA Jr. League. Now many facilities offer such programs. I would hope my leadership in this area helped inspire other PGA Golf Professionals to begin to offer the similar products because it is a revenue generator, junior golf is a way to create a better relationship with the parents and more importantly a way to enhance the life of young golfers by helping them participate in a game which teaches many positive life skills.

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

Award	Year Received	Section
Junior Golf Leader	1997, 2013	KY
Growth of the Game Award	2000	Southern Ohio
KY Player of the Year	1986, 1987 & 1988	KY
KY Senior Player of the Year	2009	KY
KY Growth of the Game Award (formerly Presidents Award)	2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 & 2014	KY
PGA National Growth of the Game Award	2014	PGA National
Bill Strausbaugh Award	2016	KY
KY PGA Section Golf Professional of the Year	2010	KY
PGA Quarter Century Award	2010	KY

Deadline – December 10, 2018

Return forms to:
Kentucky PGA
Golf House Kentucky
1116 Elmore Just Drive
Louisville, KY 40245
(502) 243-9266 fax

Email Word documents to:
csaner@kygolf.org



PGA

Kentucky Section

2019 KPGA YOUTH PLAYER DEVELOPMENT AWARD NOMINATION

Name of Nominee: Jacob Martin
Facility Name: Big Spring Country Club
Facility Address: 5901 Dutchman's Lane, Louisville, KY 40205
Facility Phone Number: 502-458-2027
Nominee E-mail Address: jmartinpgapro@gmail.com

The nomination form should be typewritten.

1. Please briefly describe the nominee's contributions to youth golf programs in the Section and on a National level including service as a chairperson or a member of the Junior Golf Committee/Youth Player Development Committee.

Jake has spent his career at the grass roots level and worked with his club members and customers. He has built multiple junior programs at the various clubs he has been at, both public and private. While in Fresno he opened his club up to a Fresno First Tee outreach program to encourage juniors from the tribe he worked for.

He looks forward to growing in his career and looks forward to broadening his horizons

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

Big Spring CC completely revamped its junior golf program in 2018. Our first step was making the choice to partner with the Operation 36 platform in March. Jake presented this opportunity to the club based on his experience at his previous club in California. He saw first hand how it changed the environment there and knew the benefits Big Spring would gain from being part of the program.

Jake was the primary contact and promoter of the new program. The fact that the program could be as much as 3 times more in cost than years past meant there was some active, one on one promotion with parents to get the program off the ground. He identified a handful of families that he knew he could trust to lead the program and, with the help of these families, spread the word to the membership. We increased our participation from 35 students in 2017 to 74 in 2018. We determined that the 2017 Junior Program brought the juniors to the club around 500 times during the summer. Our 2018 Junior Program brought the juniors to the club close to 1200 times!

Jake was also was humbled and excited to lead the Derby City PGA Jr League All-Stars to the 2018 Kentucky State Championship and came oh so close to getting the invite to Scottsdale. Jake enjoyed the experience so much. Jake has stated that 2018 was the best experience in Junior golf in his 19-year career.

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

Jake was the point person for all Junior Golf programs at the club. These include Operation 36, PGA Jr League and the Club Championships.

Jake spent countless hours in the leadership role for our Youth programs. He took it upon himself to create the program in his image. He is the person who set up for each Operation 36 class. He also set the person who scheduled the instruction topics for each class for the program. He is the person who the parents know to go to if there are questions regarding anything that relates to junior golf.

His main goal is to make sure each junior feels a sense of inclusion. Some students were terrified to start the program, with all the props and games and action, it was just too overwhelming for a couple of kids. He took these kids aside and worked with them individually until the students were ready to join the group.

Jake has consciously worked at making sure his ideas, decisions and actions are not self-serving in any way. He is honest and hard working. Humble and relaxed. He brings these traits into everything he does, at the club and at home. The juniors react so well to how he handles the groups or them individually.

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

Enthusiasm and openness to other ideas is how Jake feels it best to inspire those around him. Jake enters every meeting with coworkers and students with high enthusiasm. He is full of high fives and laughter for those around him. He encourages peers to offer ideas that will make the environment better. While Jake is very comfortable with his vision and concepts of how he would like things to proceed, he accepts that his view is not the only view. He will always show up with a positive attitude and a humble heart to make sure everyone feels their input is of value and never minimized.

His promotion of the game of golf is evident by his joy of the game. He will work to build programs that can reach all types of demographics. He wants to make sure that juniors have a fun and safe environment to learn. He wants to provide an unintimidating and positive environment for the women of his club. He is always on the positive side of building the game up to those around him

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

Award	Year Received	Section
2018 PGA Jr League Kentucky Champions	2018	Kentucky Section

Deadline – December 10, 2018

Return forms to:
Kentucky PGA
Golf House Kentucky
1116 Elmore Just Drive
Louisville, KY 40245
(502) 243-9266 fax

Email Word documents to:
csaner@kygolf.org

2019 Youth Player Development

Joey Sachs
Lexington Country Club
2550 Paris Pike
Lexington, KY 40511
golfshop@lexcc.com
(859) 299-4388

Special Awards Committee
Kentucky PGA
Golf House Kentucky
1116 Elmore Just Drive
Louisville, KY 40245

December 20, 2019

Dear Special Awards Committee,

I am honored, yet again, to be able to write another letter to you; the first for Assistant of the Year, and now this one for the KPGA Youth Player Development Award. This award is one I have been hoping to be nominated for because our youth development program at Lexington Country Club deserves recognition. We are constantly growing the game, and creating highly skilled junior golfers at the same time.

When I first started at Lexington Country Club, we had 17 juniors in our junior golf program. Since then, we have grown our academy to include 191 students, 63 of which are between the ages of 3-6. This is substantial growth and we are very proud of the success of our Junior Golf Academy.

The Lexington Country Club Junior Golf Academy is a long-term development program. Using the Operation 36 platform, we teach off a 6 level, 12-badge curriculum designed to take someone from the age of 3, all the way to age 18. Our year is split into 4 8-week quarters and Junior will attend class once a week for 8 weeks. During class, we cover the particular badge for the week. We teach a specific objective for that Junior to earn the badge, and it is up to them to obtain the knowledge and eventually test for the badge on our testing days. Since the inception of our Academy, our Juniors have earned 1,116 badges.

The great thing about our Academy is that it is more like a family. Everyone is striving toward the same goal, so in that aspect, everyone is very supportive. Nobody competes against one another, they only compete against themselves and the golf course. The area where we see the most support amongst our Juniors is actually on the golf course. In order to earn the Performance Badge, each Junior must shoot 36 or better for 9 holes! This may sound like a tall task, but starting out, a student in level one competes from 25 yards on each hole. Once this badge is earned, they move back to 50 yards, then 100 yards, and so on, until the junior gets all the way back to the tee box. As the Lead Coach of the Academy, I keep track of all scores from every match. We keep track of each individual student's improvement, and together, as an academy, we have improved 1,194 strokes to date. Our kids are absolutely incredible!

Through this platform, we have not only been able to create better golfers. We are also creating better human beings. We relate a lot of our lessons to everyday life, and it is so amazing to watch these kids grow up and mature. Our end-of-the-season banquet always brings tears to my eyes. We recognize a

few kids each year for outstanding performance, with the top two awards being the Work Ethic Award and the Honor Award. These awards go to the hardest working individual and the individual that embodies the spirit of our Academy. This year's awards couldn't have gone to 2 more deserving kids. The Work Ethic award went to a 7 year old girl who showed so much dedication through the year. She competed and won several US Kids events and even qualified for the Pinehurst Junior World Tournament. She is our star pupil and is only 7 years old! I am so proud to have her as a student.

It is so rewarding to work with these kids; after all, they are the future of the game. I know there are several deserving candidates for this award and I am just honored to be a part of the discussion. Win or lose, I will still show up on-time to every class and give 100% to our Juniors. Youth development has always been a passion of mine and I hope you will give me every consideration when deciding on the winner of this award.

Sincerely,

Joey Sachs



2019 KPGA YOUTH PLAYER DEVELOPMENT AWARD NOMINATION

Name of Nominee: _____ Josh Snider _____
Facility Name: _____ The Golf Academy @ Persimmon Ridge GC
Facility Address: _____ 72 Persimmon Ridge Lou., KY _____
Facility Phone Number: _____ 502-396-5610 _____
Nominee E-mail Address: _____ jjsnider67@gmail.com _____

The nomination form should be typewritten.

1. Please briefly describe the nominee's contributions to youth golf programs in the Section and on a National level including service as a chairperson or a member of the Junior Golf Committee/Youth Player Development Committee.

I have always been involved with developing and leading a strong junior golf program both as an Assistant Golf Professional and Head Golf Professional at my respected Clubs as well as now in my current position as the Director of Instruction at The Golf Academy. It is also a priority of mine to support the Section's outreach programs in the community on annual basis and have done so since earning my PGA membership. Also, I continue to attend as many educational opportunities, both locally and nationally, to learn new ideas and share best practice programs with my fellow PGA Professionals and coaches.

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

The promotion and development of golf programs at The Golf Academy has been directly related to having the opportunity to teach the game with an elite group of golf instructors. The TGA Instructional Staff is always looking to better our operation and services by focusing on bringing the game to as many kids as possible in our community. We have done that through numerous outreach

programs with the Jefferson County and Oldham County public schools as well as local private schools and their respected athletic associations reaching over 1000 kids over the past two years in our community. Personally, I have been fortunate to be involved with developing & directing junior golf programs that have resulted in multiple Kentucky Junior Amateur Champions, Kentucky Amateur and Kentucky Open Champions over my 20 year teaching career.

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

I believe that my image, integrity and leadership in the area of youth golf is a direct result from my passion for the game of golf. I have proven that kids of any age or ability can learn the necessary skills to play better golf and enjoy seeing each individual's "ah-ha" moment when achieving their goals while learning. Since joining the TGA Instructional Staff as the PGA Director of Instruction it has been an honor to serve as the "offensive coordinator" for multiple US Kids Champions, KY Junior Tour Winner's and High School Regional Champions this calendar year.

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

I have been fortunate to work directly under a great group of Head Golf Professionals who were responsible for assisting me with my growth within the PGA of America. It has always been a priority for me to do the same, first and foremost with my former Professional Staff and Assistant Golf Professionals who have attained PGA Membership or transitioned into industry leadership positions, and now currently with the TGA Instructional Staff. I look forward to continuing my professional education into my craft and having the opportunity to learn and share ideas with industry leaders.

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

Award	Year Received	Section
Assistant Golf Professional of the Year	1998	Kentucky

Deadline – December 10, 2018

Return forms to:
Kentucky PGA
Golf House Kentucky
1116 Elmore Just Drive
Louisville, KY 40245
(502) 243-9266 fax

Email Word documents to:
csaner@kygolf.org



PGA

Kentucky Section

2019 KPGA YOUTH PLAYER DEVELOPMENT AWARD NOMINATION

Name of Nominee: Sara Stephens

Facility Name: The Stephens Golf Academy

Facility Address: 5390 Limaburg Rd Burlington, KY 41005

Facility Phone Number: 859-414-1791

Nominee E-mail Address: Sara Stephens

The nomination form should be typewritten.

1. Please briefly describe the nominee's contributions to youth golf programs in the Section and on a National level including service as a chairperson or a member of the Junior Golf Committee/Youth Player Development Committee.
 - 2017-2018 Player Development Committee Chair
 - From 2017- 2018 Grew Spring/Summer PGA Junior League Program from 31 Kids to 44 kids. We had three 13u Division Teams, and three 16u Division Teams (the largest 16u program in the state). We also started a Fall PGA Junior League 13u Program this year and had two teams with 19 kids total (Largest Fall PGA Junior League Program in the State). Across all of our PGA Junior League Programs we had 63 total kids participate
 - 6 Kids from our PGA Junior League Team advanced on to the All Star Team that made it to the State Finals Match.
 - Our LPGA USGA Girls Golf of Northern Kentucky Program grew from 37 girls to 43 girls. 12 High School Girls helped volunteer as "eleaders" with our program to earn service hours for school.
 - Ran an Inaugural Girls Golf of Northern Kentucky Halloween Tournament this October. We had 16 girls (8 Teams) participate. They all got to dress in costume and play a 9 hole two-person scramble. The girls had a blast and one of the mom's even put candy at the bottom of all of the cups as a surprise for the kids when they finished each hole!
 - Served as the lead Golf Instructor for The First Tee of Greater Cincinnati's LPGA/USGA Girls Golf Program at Reeves Golf Course in 2015 and 2016
 - One of 15 National PGA Members Elected to the PGA Lead Class of 2017-2019
 - Selected to join the National PGA Employment Committee in January 2019

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

Facility:

- PGA Junior League Golf (serves as captain)
- LPGA USGA Girls Golf of Northern Kentucky (serves as site director)
- Little Linksters Camp (Lead Instructor)
- Golf In School NKY (Lead Instructor)

Community:

- Since December 2016 have conducted Golf In School Classes in to 8 Schools in Boone County Kentucky. Since then, we have reached just over 3,000 kids getting a golf club in their hands. Approximately 60% of the kids have never touched a golf club before.
- In 2018 alone, we have reached approximately 700 kids.
- 2016 Guest Speaker at the Grant County High School Golf Team's End Of Season Banquet
- In 2015 & 2016 Served as guest teaching instructor for The First Tee's Summer LPGA USGA Girl's Golf Program at Reeves Golf Course
- Coached the St Ursula Girls Varsity Golf Team from 2015-2017

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

At The Stephens Golf Academy, my main goal is to provide programs that not only bring a diverse group of people to our academy, but also retain them as long-term students of the game. The group instruction programs I focused on expanding in 2018 were PGA Junior League and LPGA USGA Girls Golf of Northern Kentucky. This was the second year our academy offered PGA Junior League, and in order to try and get juniors to join, I scour my entire lesson database and sent out an "invitation" email to every child's parent in the target ages of 13 & Under, or 14-16 year old for the 16u division. This past year, we went from one Spring/Summer League with 31 kids, to offering a Spring/Summer League with a 13u and 16u division with 44 kids total across the two divisions. We also added a Fall League for 13u only, and had an additional 19 kids across two teams in that league. We had both the largest 16u Division team and the largest Fall League in the State of Kentucky this year.

Our Girls Golf Program has also continued to grow in 2018. I started LPGA USGA Girls Golf of Northern Kentucky in 2016 and got the program off the ground with 9 girls. At the end of 2017 we jumped up to 37 girls. This year, we had 46 total Girls Participate in our Girls Golf of Northern Kentucky Program. We also added an Inaugural Girls Golf Halloween Tournament this year which we plan on continuing to offer in the future. The Halloween Tournament was a 2 Person Team Scramble (similar to PGA Junior League), and the teams got to dress up in costume for the event. There were prizes awarded for both division champions, as well as for the best dressed team. We collaborated with local Golf Store "Golf Exchange" for prizes to the winning teams. One of the moms even took it a step further and brought candy to put in the bottom of each golf hole so that when the girls finished each hole, they'd find a trick-or-treat surprise waiting for them!

Within our Golf In School NKY Program, I expanded this year to include an after school program at Goodridge Elementary School in Boone County, as well as utilized the SNAG Golf Equipment with a few "Special Education" Classes during their PE time.

Some of these Special Ed children included those with Autism, Down Syndrome and other Disorders that prohibited them from being able to develop at the same rate as their peers.

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

There are many ways in which I hope to inspire other fellow PGA Professionals. For me it starts with always being open to listening other peoples thoughts or ideas as it relates to not only the game of golf, but also how we can better the Association at the Section and National levels. I hope that through serving on the Board of Directors at the Section Level, as well as my service on PGA Lead, and also just recently being named to the National Employment Committee for the PGA starting in January 2019, I hope to continue to influence change and future opportunities for Members of the association in the coming years.

As far as at the facility level, I do my part to promote the game of golf by offering a few core Junior Player Development Programs. I believe when the most time is invested in younger players, that is where we will gain the most long-term advantage in keeping this sport secure for future generations. The core player development programs include PGA Junior League, LPGA/USGA Girls Golf, and Golf In School NKY. Through the success of these programs, I hope to be able to share what I've done to grow these programs with others in hopes to inspire them to take on the task of adding these programs to their respective facilities.



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

Award	Year Received	Section
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US Kids Top 50 Honorable Mention	2014-2017	
PGA Lead Cohort III	Class of 2017-2019	National PGA Leadership Program
2018 Player Development Award	2017	Kentucky PGA

Deadline – December 10, 2018

Return forms to:
Kentucky PGA
Golf House Kentucky
1116 Elmore Just Drive
Louisville, KY 40245
(502) 243-9266 fax

Email Word documents to:
csaner@kygolf.org



PGA

Kentucky Section

2019 KPGA YOUTH PLAYER DEVELOPMENT AWARD NOMINATION

Name of Nominee: Daniel Utley _____
Facility Name: Owl Creek Country Club _____
Facility Address: 12400 N. Osage Road, Anchorage, KY 40223_ _____
Facility Phone Number: 502-245-4156 _____
Nominee E-mail Address: daniel@owlcreekcc.com _____

The nomination form should be typewritten.

1. Please briefly describe the nominee's contributions to youth golf programs in the Section and on a National level including service as a chairperson or a member of the Junior Golf Committee/Youth Player Development Committee.

Since arriving at Owl Creek CC, we have created two teams annually to participate in the PGA Junior League. I was the golf coach at Saint Xavier HS from 2008-2015 where I taught and mentored young men of all ages and abilities. I worked diligently to teach the mental, physical, and socioeconomical benefits golf has to offer. Often this included physical teaching, mental coaching, physical workouts, college decision prep work, volunteer opportunity creation, as well as personal community involvement in activities such as volunteering with a local middle school golf team, organizing a drive to donate clubs, balls, and other equipment needed at The 1st Tee of Louisville, and volunteering at charitable golf related functions. Through my eight years at Saint Xavier, we sent over 30 players to play college golf. Organized a mission trip to Belize spring of 2019 to teach and instruct kids and adults the basics of golf. Delivering clubs and methods so that they can play the game when we leave.

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

Since arriving at Owl Creek CC, I have started a Spring and Fall "golf in school" initiative with our local K-8th grade Anchorage School where we have drawn on average 50 kids into the game each session in which they are taught in a fun and interactive way so as to keep the kids involved in the game down the road. The spring and fall program works as an after school activity from 3-6 pm for six weeks each session. My summer program which mainly focuses on "playing the game" has grown to over 70 kids throughout the summer with ages ranging from 4-15.

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

This is hard to answer but I would hope that junior golfers and their parents respect the work I have done from the development side, especially with high school golfers. I like to think the good work of getting young men ready and available to play college golf is not work gone unnoticed. Over thirty players have gone on to play college golf at some level. I have always operated myself and my business in this game with the utmost integrity. There is only one truth and my motto is to live and speak the truth at all times. This game is supposed to be fun and hopefully I live that image. God has blessed all of us with special talents and I feel spreading the joys of this game is mine.

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

My hopes are that my brethren Professionals can be inspired by knowing that every day I wake up charged and ready to spread smiles and the game of golf to whomever I encounter. Our game has never been affected negatively by getting someone excited to play, practice, or be apart of our game as a business. We as professionals should feel as if it's our sole mission to teach, grow, spread, and advocate everything this great game has to offer. Being perfectly honest, I would be incredibly honored to accept this award. My only hope is that I place in comparison to what others may be doing to grow this game. If that is the case, then we are all going to be in a better world.

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

Award	Year Received	Section

Deadline – December 10, 2018

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