

2023 Special Awards Candidate Bio Form

Please send this form back no later Friday, October 21, 2022.

If you were nominated for more than one award you must **submit a bio form for each award**.

Email *

brobypga@gmail.com

Name of Nominee: *

Brandon Roby

Award Nominated for: *

Player Development

Facility Employed at: *

Cascade Hills Country Club

Year Elected to Membership: *

2004

Please describe your achievements/accomplishments that would pertain to this award. *

My name is Brandon Roby. I have been a Teacher and Assistant Golf Professional in Michigan for eighteen years and a Director of Instruction at Cascade Hills Country Club for nine years.

As an instructor, it is my responsibility to get students where they want to be. That being said, it is also a personal responsibility of mine to make sure that the process in which my students learn is fun, engaging, and effective. I pride myself in the fact that I not only aid my students in their golf game, but also make their experience as fun as possible by connecting with them. Anyone can learn about a swing and preach it to others in a monochromatic tone, but not everyone can engage with their students while pushing them to be the best that they can on and off the course. This aspect of my teaching is what qualifies me to be selected as a The Player Development Award. As an instructor, it is also my responsibility to continue to learn, question and grow to be able to adapt to the variety of students who enter the golf performance center. In my pursuit to become a better instructor, I have established working mentor/mentee relationships with top golf instructors.

My teaching philosophy is pretty simple, treat everyone differently as not everyone is created equally.

I am truly honored to be nominated for the Player Development Award and thank you for taking time to read my bio.

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Email *

jabbergolf@aol.com

Name of Nominee: *

Dean Marks

Award Nominated for: *

Player Development Award

Facility Employed at: *

Milham Park Golf Club

Year Elected to Membership: *

1997

Please describe your achievements/accomplishments that would pertain to this award. *

Junior Golf in Kalamazoo is thriving, and I feel I have played an important role in the success of Junior Golf in the Kalamazoo area through my participation in many different programs. I believe in leading by example more than dictating and I think over the years, parents and players have come to appreciate my approach.

In addition to being the Director of Golf for the 3 Kalamazoo City owned golf courses, I am also Director of the Kalamazoo Junior Golf Association, a position I've held since 2005. I am solely responsible for creating the schedule of events at local golf courses. I schedule 27 tournaments at 21 different courses in the area and I believe my ability to do this is directly related to my organizational skills and relationships with area pros at host courses. The program has 3 age groups - 12U, 13-15, 16-18, and costs only \$70 to play 5 events, \$5 for each additional event.

I have overseen the KJGA Instructional classes since 2005, which average over 200 participants per year. I regularly get 12-15 volunteers to help at these classes and ages 3-15 can learn golf for only \$70 for a 6-week class. In spring of 2021, we became a satellite location for First Tee West Michigan and were able to increase our reach to over 400 youth.

15 years ago, I expanded our KJGA Scholarship program to offer four \$1500 scholarships to graduating seniors who have participated in the KJGA programs and plan to attend a 4-year college. We have now awarded 95 scholarships totaling \$136,000 since 1997.

Finally, I am captain for our PGA Jr League program which had 117 participants in 2020, the 17th largest program in the nation. We continued the success with 110 participants in 2021 and 115 in 2022. I was selected to host a PGA Jr League Regional event in 2022.

Every participant in my programs receives a free membership to play our par 3 Red Arrow Golf Course located in downtown Kalamazoo.

Thank you for taking the time to read about some of my highlights.

- PGA Certified Professional in Instruction 2009
- Michigan PGA Junior Golf Leader award 2007, 2012
- Michigan PGA Player Development award 2017
- TPI Certified Level 2 Junior Coach 2010
- US Kids Golf Top 50 Kids Teacher 2008, 2009, 2010
- US Kids Golf Master Kids Teacher 2011
- US Kids Golf Certified Coach 2012
- US Kids Golf Certified Coach Level 2 2018
- Kalamazoo College Women's Golf Coach 2003-2020
- First Tee Level 1 Coach 2016
- USGA Rules of Golf Advanced Certification 2019

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Email *

edlgolf@charter.net

Name of Nominee: *

Edward Laprade

Award Nominated for: *

Player Development Award

Facility Employed at: *

Bay Meadows Family Golf Course

Year Elected to Membership: *

1997

Please describe your achievements/accomplishments that would pertain to this award. *

I have been teaching players of every level for over 25 years, 23 at Crystal Mountain Resort and now at Bay Meadows Family Golf Course. I have taught high level players, including a High School State Champion and Division 1 College players, but my bread and butter is working with average players and beginners.

Throughout my career I have enjoyed working with new golfers and juniors. At Bay Meadows I have Get Golf Ready evening clinics as well as Midday clinics to introduce new golfers to the game and help experienced players improve. I have taught Women Only schools for over 20 years. I think that this segment is very important to growing the game.

One of the biggest barriers of player development is retaining new golfers. I always have a relaxed inclusive environment for people to learn the game. For the new player the process of golf can be intimidating. We don't just teach swing mechanics but also the whole process of playing a round from making a tee time and checking in at the golf shop with etiquette as well.

Player development is more than just beginners. Every golfer wants to improve. I believe to be a good instructor one must know the swing mechanics extremely well. Everything starts there. Also, excellent communication skills are a must. It is important that the instructor can demonstrate what he or she is explaining on the range and course alike. One of the most important elements of our instruction is the on-course part of the school where we go on the course and work on real world situations. Bay Meadows mantra "Learn, Practice, Play" is a wholistic approach to the game. Technology such as Trackman 4, V1 video and K-vest are integral to my teaching. From there it is all about enthusiasm, patience and fun. Keeping it light with humor really helps! The most important thing is that the student is given clear explanations about what they need to do and that it is accurate information that will not harm their game. Being positive and patient is critical.

Thank you for your consideration,

Edward Laprade

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Email *

jcaminipga@gmail.com

Name of Nominee: *

Jeff Caminiti

Award Nominated for: *

Player Development

Facility Employed at: *

Caminiti Golf Academy

Year Elected to Membership: *

2005

Please describe your achievements/accomplishments that would pertain to this award. *

I have been teaching golf now for over 20 years. I have had some success with a number of juniors. My most recent was an 8 year old that made it to the Drive, Chip, and Putt regionals. I also have grown the game through a successful Instagram page that had over 20k followers.

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Email *

JCWisinski@pga.com

Name of Nominee: *

Jimmy Wisinski

Award Nominated for: *

Player Development Award

Facility Employed at: *

Kent Country Club

Year Elected to Membership: *

2010

Please describe your achievements/accomplishments that would pertain to this award. *

It is an honor to be nominated for the Michigan PGA Player Development Award. As a golf professional for over 17 years, I know the growth of our game and the health of our business depends on continued growth in establishing new golfers, retaining golfers and re-engaging past golfers.

In early spring, I put together a golf instructional trip to visit Andrew Rice, a Golf Digest top 30 teacher. Matt Swan, Director of Golf, and I traveled with 8 members to Savannah, Georgia. We played multiple rounds of golf around the Savannah/Hilton Head area and put on a two-day golf school. This trip was a huge success and the members enjoyed working on their game, playing fantastic courses, and the resulting comradery among the members.

- Savannah Golf Instructional Trip 1:2.6 teacher to student ratio

When the weather finally broke in Michigan, we offered a three-day ladies "Get Golf Ready Golf School." This school was three straight days with 4 hours of instruction daily. Six ladies joined Kristina Flynn, Teaching Professional, and I for this kickstart to their golf improvement.

- Ladies Three Day Golf School 1:3 teacher to student ratio

This year, our most successful programs were our multiple Ladies Clinics in the Spring and Fall. In the spring we offer a "Lessons & Libations Series" for the ladies on Tuesday evenings throughout the month of May. Our teacher to student ratios is kept low as we have four stations at each clinic and rotate through each one. We had 35-40 ladies each week attend this hour and a half clinic. The main theme was to come have a glass of wine or a cocktail, which was included with the clinic, and to socialize with other members while learning more about golf. Seeing new members and longtime members engage and learn about golf is the entire goal for this very successful program.

- Ladies Lessons & Libations (4 clinics in the month of May) 1:8 teacher to student ratio

In the summer months, members that manage a local law firm and financial company setup a re-occurring golf clinic for summer interns and employees. I offered a 10-week standing clinic during the lunch break for these companies. In both companies' clinics, almost all of the students were brand new to the game. Seeing them learn the game and enjoy it was amazing. Many of them would comment that they were playing golf on their own over the weekend and how much they enjoyed golf. The members were very pleased with being able to offer this and both have decided that these clinics will be offered in 2023 as well.

- Local Law Firm & Financial Group Corporate Clinics 1:4 teacher to student ratio

In the middle of June, I was asked by Titleist to be the guest golf instructor at their Team Titleist Folds of Honor event at American Dunes. This was a special honor for me because of the amazing work that Folds of Honor and American Dunes accomplish through the game of golf. Being able to bring the game of golf to military families and help those families is very special.

In the fall, we offered Ladies 'Get Golf Ready' Clinics. These Ladies Get Golf ready clinics are meant to be fun first and learning about golf second. My belief is that when we can help new golfers have fun at the club, they will want to learn and get better too. All of our weekly Ladies Get Golf Ready clinics attracted between 16-30 ladies. We offered these one-hour clinics in the evening throughout the fall. Building off this ladies group offering we also offered a "Back to School" Junior Golf series for younger kids. This one-hour clinic ran from early September to Mid-October. The junior clinics had 10-12 juniors in each clinic with two golf professionals.

- Ladies Fall "Get Golf Ready Clinics" 1:8 teacher to student ratio
- Fall Junior Golf "Back to School" Clinics 1:6 teacher to student ratio

As we enter the winter months at the club, I will continue to offer Titleist Performance Institute (TPI) assessments and programs to help keep members moving and golf ready in the winter. I've developed specific programs for these members to deal with physical limitations that effect their golf swing. This offering was very well received in 2022. I am currently going through TPI Level 2 certifications. I am also in the middle of my PGA Master Certification in Teaching & Coaching. I want to complete this certification and continuing education as a way to grow my knowledge on how people learn movement patterns and continue to grow as a teacher & coach.

In the off season I came up with an idea to hold a Michigan Golf Coaches Roundtable at Kent CC. The idea being that golf coaches from around the state can share ideas and thoughts on their business and the industry. Sixteen teachers from the state of Michigan attended this roundtable. I plan to host every other season.

To be nominated for this award means that the Kent CC team is phenomenal. Keeping our teacher to golfer ratios low helps provide

the best instructional environment for the members. I'd like to thank our Director of Golf, Matt Swan, Teaching Professional Kristina Flynn and our assistant golf professionals Ryan Bayer and Blake Male. They were instrumental in the success of our instructional programs offered throughout the season.

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Email *

joseph.charles@boyne.com

Name of Nominee: *

Joe Charles

Award Nominated for: *

Player Development

Facility Employed at: *

BOYNE Golf Academy

Year Elected to Membership: *

2005

Please describe your achievements/accomplishments that would pertain to this award. *

Thank you for your consideration for the Player Development Award for the Michigan PGA. The outlined criteria below summarizes my credentials as it pertains to this award. As a 17 year member of the PGA of America I believe that administering Play Golf America initiatives is at the core of what we do at the Boyne Golf Academy. In 2022 I implemented a Get Golf Ready program in the spring that had 40 registrants and was able to garner the support of 11 PGA Professionals from our team to implement weekly clinics designed to attract lapsed golfers back into the game and also to make the game more enjoyable and relatable for new golfers with interest. This program was so successful that we are hosting a follow up Get Golf Ready 2.0 this fall which will already has 15 registrants. This program will feature advanced skill building clinics along with physical fitness training and off-season practice routines. In addition to establishing our GGR programs I have also volunteered my time with the First Tee of Northern Michigan running the local PGA Junior League program here in the Petoskey/Harbor Springs community.

In addition to supporting PGA initiatives, I have developed my own programs that support both growth and exposure to the game of golf. These programs are highlighted by 3 different destination adult golf schools which I introduced in 2021. The customizable 1 Day Workshop, Ladies Golf School and very popular Couples Golf School all enjoyed success this season with over 100 attendees traveling from all over the mid-west as well as the rest of the US in the inaugural season. I anticipate that these programs will grow in popularity as is evident from the great reviews we have received which I encourage all of you to check out at www.boynegolf.com/testimonials.

Part of my job working with and representing the Boyne Golf Academy is maintaining a positive overall image as a teacher/coach. In recent years I have traveled to many of the winter golf shows speaking about instruction related topics. I have also appeared on golf 360 tv in Chicago with multiple digital golf tips. I have also established a relationship with the Grand Rapids Women's Golf Association contributing instructional content to their newsletters. As a Golf Channel Academy Lead Instructor I also had multiple facebook live broadcasts through their social channels and also appeared on the Morning Drive television show in 2018. I have contributed 5 best practices articles to PGA Magazine about growing the game and teaching, the most recent being in the August 2021 issue entitled "Teach Your Players to Self Diagnose Their Own Swing". In 2021 I also had a 3 page article on "Coaching Coaches" where I discussed our approach to building relationships with players and helping them achieve their goals. My favorite achievement has undoubtedly been being part of and leading a great team of instructors at BOYNE. This culminated in my second year (this year) where we were recognized as one of Golf Digest Editors Choice for best Golf Academies in America. One of only two academies in Michigan to receive this designation.

Golf is always evolving and one of our duties as teachers is to stay on top of current trends and educating ourselves. In an effort to use innovative techniques and specialty certifications to enhance programs and my ability as an instructor I have acquired the following credentials... TPI Level 1 certified instructor, TPI Level 2 Junior certified instructor, US Kids Golf certified instructor, Trackman certified instructor, Eyeline Golf certified instructor, completed PGA of America American Development Model Training, attended the last 4 PGA Teaching and Coaching Summits, been a member of the Proponent Group, attended the Michigan PGA as well as nearby sections Teaching and Coaching Summits, represented Callaway as a Professional Staff Member as well as attending their advanced fitting and equipment training at the PGA Show.

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Email *

petekelbel@pga.com

Name of Nominee: *

Pete Kelbel

Award Nominated for: *

Player Development 2023

Facility Employed at: *

Walloon Lake Country Club

Year Elected to Membership: *

1990

Please describe your achievements/accomplishments that would pertain to this award. *

Pete Kelbel – Player Development Bio 2023

I've enjoyed being a very busy instructor these past 33 years at Walloon Lake Country Club and the golf coach at Harbor Springs High School for both boys and girls for over a decade. Walloon Lake CC has large and wide range, short game areas and putting greens to develop players. All the shots that come up on the course can be developed with our practice area. It is my goal in lessons and clinics to develop a complete player. I use all forms of teaching aids, video, feedback stations in my target-oriented lessons. On course lessons are also a natural extension of the process.

It has been fun developing my member's games to win club championships, junior club championships and various other tournaments. Many of my students have gone off to play college golf at all the different levels, including D-1. I have also coached a fellow PGA Professional who competed in the Club Professional Championship.

Coaching both the Harbor Springs boy's golf team in the spring and girl's golf team in the fall has been fun these 10+ past years. 2 State Championships, 2 State-Runner Ups and 7 Regional Titles have been earned over the past 10 years. The girls just won the Regional title and finished 8th in state with my top girl earning a medal for Top 10. Many of my high school players have achieved All-State honors.

Providing indoor instruction is also a critical part of helping golfers of all ages and abilities achieve their goals. High quality launch monitors and simulators are very important and part of the mix of making better golfers.

Also, being a swing coach for many of the Tip of the Mitt area golfers has also been something I love the challenge of. Many have gone on to play college golf. In many cases I find myself competing with my high school team against the teams of some of my area students. I also started an annual Tip of the Mitt Junior Golf Showcase Tournament this past summer at Chestnut Valley GC in Harbor Springs to draw attention to our quality players and their achievements.

I have written articles for ProGolfNow.com and WomensGolf.com where I am on the Professional Instruction Staff. Teaching and Coaching is not just about developing single digit handicaps, but helping each of my students with different ages and abilities achieve their person goals. Gaining confidence to play in ladies' day, making a high school golf team, or breaking 80, 90 or 100 are all typical goals I typically work on with my students in my effort to make them all around players.

I very much appreciate the nomination and am honored.

Sincerely,

Pete Kelbel

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Email *

rbryant@thousandoaksgc.com

Name of Nominee: *

Raquel Bryant

Award Nominated for: *

Player Development Award

Facility Employed at: *

Thousand Oaks Golf Club

Year Elected to Membership: *

2009

Please describe your achievements/accomplishments that would pertain to this award. *

Thank you for considering me for this award. It is an honor to be nominated!

I have been running adult women's golf programs at Thousand Oaks Golf Club for 14 years. These are the adult programs I ran in 2022. Thank you to Justin Rube for his assistance in the Summer Ladies' Edge Program.

-Spring Ladies' Edge- 18 women, in the Golf Academy, six Mondays from February to March for 1 hour each week

-Summer Ladies' Edge- 135 women, three Mondays each month from May-August for 1.5 hours each

-Fall Ladies' Edge- 6 women, five Fridays from September to October for 1 hour each week

-Play with the Pro- 10 women, 4 men, on-course playing lessons with additional recommendations given after the round

Total: over 173 registrations for adult group programs I instructed

Averages from adult group programs- 98% women, 2 % men, 64% non-members, 36% members

For Spring Ladies' Edge I instruct on one topic per week as well as use interactive games and drills on the LiveGolf simulators. For Summer and Fall Ladies' Edge I cover a wide range of topics throughout the summer including full swing, putting, chipping, pitching, bunker, uneven lies, trouble shots, learning to practice efficiently, and an on-course lesson. I have many ladies do these clinics year after year. New to 2022, each clinic participant was set up with an On-Form account and received personalized notes from what was discussed in the clinic, as well as prerecorded videos on the topics discussed that day.

Play with the Pro was a brand-new program for 2022, inspired from PGA.Coach. I utilized times when the course was blocked off for evening league shotguns. It was a great success, and I plan to do it again next year!

Hours of Instruction:

Private Lessons- 267 hours of private lessons given so far in 2022, 65% of those were juniors, 23% women, 12% men

Group Programs- 173 hours of group programs in 2022, 63% of those hours were in junior programs, 35% women's programs, 2% men's programs

Previous awards and certifications:

2021 Michigan PGA Junior Golf Program of the Year

2019 Michigan PGA Junior Golf Program of the Year

2018 Dul Family Player Development Leadership Award

2015 Michigan PGA Youth Player Development Award Winner

American Development Model Certified

PGA Specialized Teaching Professional

Testimonial:

"I have taken several lessons with Raquel at Thousand Oaks Golf Club in Grand Rapids, Michigan and her professionalism as well as passion for the game is unmatched.

Being brand new to golfing this year, I went into my first lesson nervous. The only time I had swung my clubs was when I bought them. Raquel was immediately so warm, friendly, and accommodating and that took a lot of my fear and anxiety about learning a new game out of the way. Her ability to reach both youth and adult players at various skill levels is apparent when you see her at Thousand Oaks. She is well known and respected by her peers, coworkers; students and parents alike.

Taking lessons with Raquel, I was set up with a multitude of video instruction, drills, and notes to reference when out on the course or the range. I have learned so much from Raquel this summer and those I golf with have recognized that as well. I look forward to continuing to better my game with Raquel's help."

-Melanie Stamey

Thank you for considering me for this award!

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Email *

Scott.shapin@gmail.com

Name of Nominee: *

Scott Shapin

Award Nominated for: *

Player Development

Facility Employed at: *

Pine Lake Country Club

Year Elected to Membership: *

2006

Please describe your achievements/accomplishments that would pertain to this award. *

This was my first year as the Director of Instruction at Pine Lake Country Club. Last year as the lead assistant I taught approximately 600 hours (for calendar year 2021) often having to turn away requests for lessons due to scheduling constraints. As a result, the club recognized the demand and need for a dedicated teacher, and I was promoted into my new role.

Prior to taking on this position the club had very few group instruction programs and lacked a professional whose primary focus and priority was teaching. In my first year, in addition to a full calendar of private lessons I have increased the number of clinic hours from 45 to over 115 with programs for every level of golfer (see below for a full description of available group/clinic programs). These programs not only added more opportunities for students, it also provided more teaching opportunities for the assistant professionals as many of the programs required more than one instructor. This allowed me to watch the assistants teach and offer feedback to help them grow as instructors, strengthening our teaching program as a whole. The clinics also served as an opportunity to get in front of more students and generate more private lessons.

Programming Highlights: While this past season boasted a packed schedule of both private and group coaching the following stood out as exemplars of the success of our growing instructional program.

Women's Golf: As an operation overall, we recognize the opportunity for growth when it comes to women's golf and in turn have invested in supporting that growth with a wholistic approach that includes instructional, operational, and retail components.

We offer two beginner instructional programs for women, Women's Welcome to Golf & Women's Three Hole League (adapted and expanded versions of Get Golf Ready). Our Welcome to Golf program is open to both golf and social members and is meant for true beginners as a welcoming and reassuring environment to help lower the often-intimidating barrier to entry. This program consists of four one-hour classes that cover everything from basic form and swing mechanics to how to drive golf cart and facility tour. Our 3-Hole League combines both instruction and on-course play. Each week consists of a 30-minute clinic, followed by three holes of golf, and dinner. The atmosphere prioritizes growth, on course practice, and socializing. We offer two sessions, 4-weeks each. This year we saw a tremendous response to our beginner programming with 12 participants in our Welcome to Golf program, 30 in the first session of 3-Hole League, and 30 in the second session of 3-Hole League, combined we had 43 unique participants. As evidence of their enthusiasm and also the hugely important role these new golfers play in our overall operation, the 43 unique new women golfers were responsible for approximately \$57,000 of revenue generated through the shop (includes shop sales, lesson revenue, and tournament entry fees).

Innovative Techniques: As a teacher, I regularly utilize video and TrackMan during lessons, and provide my students with my cell phone number to go over the highs and lows of their rounds. However, I wanted to create a tool that my students could use while on the golf course to help them put what we are working on into practice. As a result, I created the Golf Notebook. I worked with Best Approach, a yardage book company, to create a yardage book sized notebook for my students to keep with them in their bags for easy reference. The notebook has pages for lesson notes (that I assist them with post lesson), as well as a goals page, charts to track their putting stats during a round, a yardage chart, and a wedge matrix. Each page also has a different motivational quote. The response from my students has been outstanding. This summer, the story of my Golf Notebook was published in PGA Magazine, and I have even had other teachers reach out to get copies of the books to use with their own students.

In addition to my notebooks, I also created a poker chip ball marker for my students. Each marker has a collection of words and phrases we talk about during our lessons and can be used as a tool to help them remember our process while they are on the course. One side says WIN (what's important now), Present, Process, Commit and the other says Accept, Reflect, Repeat, Never Give Up!

My Students' Accomplishments 2022

39 students were in the top 100 most improved, 7 of the top 10
 Students won both the women's 9 and 18 hole most improved award
 Two girls made their high school teams as freshman, 1 qualified for states
 Four students won their flights in the Club Championships
 Eight students won their flight in Couples League
 Student won the Member-Member, four won their flight
 Two students won their flights in the Women's Invitational
 Two students won their flights in the Men's Invitational
 Three students won their flight in Women's Evening League
 Four students won their flight in the Fall Member Guest
 Student won the Women's Directors Cup match play championship

Private Golf Lessons (year to date): 840

Group Programs

Summer Junior Golf Program: 150 participants

Our summer Junior Program runs for 6 weeks and concludes with the Junior Club Championship. The program participants are classified by the number of holes they play, little linkers (ages 5-7) 1 hole, 3-holers (8-10), 5-holers (11-12), 9 and 18-holers (13 and up). Juniors can play up based on their scores. Every Tuesday, juniors attend two 15-minute clinics (4 to 1 student to teacher ratio). One clinic takes place on the putting green and the other takes place on the range. After the clinic they go on the course to play.

Weekly Women's Clinics: 40 clinics (weekly) averaging 4 students per session

The weekly clinics were twice a week during the winter on our simulators and once a week during the season. We covered all topics.

Putting Clinics: 4 clinics, averaging 6 students per session

One hour clinic focusing on the three putting skills, speed, face control, and green reading. Each student received a brochure with the class material as well as practice methods and games.

Wedge Clinics: 2 clinics, averaging 5 students per session

One hour clinic focused on wedges and how to control distance. Each student built their wedge matrix that they could keep in their bag.

Chipping Clinics: 2 clinics, averaging 6 students per session

One hour clinic focused on the fundamentals of chipping, including club selection and distance control. Each student received a brochure with the class material.

3-Hole Women's League: 2 sessions (4 weeks per session) averaging 30 students

This league is designed for new players and runs for four weeks. Each week starts with a 30-minute clinic on a specific topic. Players then play 3 holes followed by dinner. The ladies have so much fun with this program that it has grown from 15 players last year to 30 and some continue to play in the league even though their skill level has progressed beyond it.

Help, I have to Play Golf Today! Clinic: 5 clinics, 17 students

Last year one of my biggest requests was for a last-minute lesson prior to the Women's Evening League. I used this to create the Help, I Have to Play Golf Today! Clinic. This clinic allowed me to accommodate more students and was an opportunity for them to get a few minutes of help before their round each week. This was very well received by the ladies and will be continued going forward.

Elite Junior Coaching: 15 clinics (weekly, 90 minutes) averaging 6 students

Program created for junior golfers wanting to play competitive golf. We focused on all aspects of the game.

Women's Welcome to Golf: 4 weeks, 12 students

Our take on Get Golf Ready. Open to golf and social members. Each of the four clinics had an instruction component and a golf knowledge component, including, facility tour, how to drive a golf cart, and rules discussion on the course.

Drive, Chip and Putt Series: 4 sessions (4 clinics per session) averaging 10 students

This clinic focused on the three aspects of the competition. Each clinic had a teaching component and a competition component. The final clinic was a mock competition.

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Brittany Hansen <bhansen@michiganpga.com>

Mistake

1 message

Scott Shapin <scott.shapin@gmail.com>
To: bhansen@michiganpga.com

Mon, Oct 31, 2022 at 5:12 PM

Hi Brittany,

I am sorry to ask this, I just noticed that I pasted the incomplete file for my Player Development award submission. Is there a way to put the correct version in? If not I completely understand. I have pasted it below.

Thank you for your help.

-Scott

This was my first year as the Director of Instruction at Pine Lake Country Club. Last year as the lead assistant I taught approximately 600 hours (for calendar year 2021) often having to turn away requests for lessons due to scheduling constraints. As a result, the club recognized the demand and need for a dedicated teacher, and I was promoted into my new role.

Prior to taking on this position the club had very few group instruction programs and lacked a professional whose primary focus and priority was teaching. In my first year, in addition to a full calendar of private lessons I have increased the number of clinic hours from 45 to over 115 with programs for every level of golfer (see below for a full description of available group/clinic programs). These programs not only added more opportunities for students, it also provided more teaching opportunities for the assistant professionals as many of the programs required more than one instructor. This allowed me to watch the assistants teach and offer feedback to help them grow as instructors, strengthening our teaching program as a whole. The clinics also served as an opportunity to get in front of more students and generate more private lessons. This year to date I have taught 840 private lessons and 115 clinic hours.

Programming Highlights: While this past season boasted a packed schedule of both private and group coaching the following stood out as exemplars of the success of our growing instructional program.

- **Women's Golf:** As an operation overall, we recognize the opportunity for growth when it comes to women's golf and in turn have invested in supporting that growth with a wholistic approach that includes instructional, operational, and retail components.

We offer two beginner instructional programs for women, Women's Welcome to Golf & Women's Three Hole League (adapted and expanded versions of Get Golf Ready). Our Welcome to Golf program is open to both golf and social members and is meant for true beginners as a welcoming and reassuring environment to help lower the often-intimidating barrier to entry. This program consists of four one-hour classes that cover everything from basic form and swing mechanics to how to drive golf cart and facility tour. Our 3-Hole League combines both instruction and on-course play. Each week consists of a 30-minute clinic, followed by three holes of golf, and dinner. The atmosphere prioritizes growth, on course practice, and socializing. We offer two sessions, 4-weeks each.

This year we saw a tremendous response to our beginner programming with 12 participants in our Welcome to Golf program, 30 in the first session of 3-Hole League, and 30 in the second session of 3-Hole League, combined we had 43 unique participants. As evidence of their enthusiasm and also the hugely important role these new golfers play in our overall operation, the 43 unique new women golfers were responsible for approximately \$57,000 of revenue generated through the shop (includes shop sales, lesson revenue, and tournament entry fees). Many of these ladies went on to play in our women's evening league that consists of 108 ladies, and there was a significant increase in sign-ups for our couples league that maxes out at 128 with a waitlist of over 50 people.

Junior Golf: Prior to this year our only junior golf offering was our 7-week summer junior golf program. While this is a great introduction to golf it was limited to the singular short summer session. This year we added three new junior programs in addition to the traditional summer program. The new programs are Drive, Chip, and Putt clinics, Junior League, and Junior Elite Coaching.

The four weeklong Drive, Chip, and Putt clinic series provided juniors with the opportunity for Spring golf while honing their skills and preparing them to compete in the Drive, Chip, and Putt competition. This year we had over 25 students participate in the clinics (some attending more than one session) and 7 juniors that went on to compete in the local Drive, Chip, and Putt qualifiers.

Our first year of Junior League we had two in-house teams with 24 participants. Juniors and their parents appreciated the additional platform for competitive golf and it is a program we are planning to grow going forward.

The Junior Elite Coaching program was added specifically for juniors 12 and older that want to play competitively. While our traditional summer junior golf program prioritizes exposure to the game for as many juniors at all skill levels as possible, the elite coaching program prioritizes building competitive athletes and providing an atmosphere for them to grow and challenge themselves and each other. Of the 14 juniors that participated in the elite coaching program four are already members of their high school golf teams while the others are prepping to go into high school in the next year or two. One of the most noteworthy aspects of the Elite Coaching program is that it runs year-round on a weekly basis providing sustained instruction for our juniors that are most dedicated to the game.

Innovative Techniques: As a teacher, I regularly utilize video and TrackMan during lessons, and provide my students with my cell phone number to go over the highs and lows of their rounds. However, I wanted to create a tool that my students could use while on the golf course to help them put what we are working on into practice. As a result, I created the Golf Notebook. I worked with Best Approach, a yardage book company, to create a yardage book sized notebook for my students to keep with them in their bags for easy reference. The notebook has pages for lesson notes (that I assist them with post lesson), as well as a goals page, charts to track their putting stats during a round, a yardage chart, and a wedge matrix. Each page also has a different motivational quote. The response from my students has been outstanding. This summer, the story of my Golf Notebook was published in PGA Magazine, and I have even had other teachers reach out to get copies of the books to use with their own students.

In addition to my notebooks, I also created a poker chip ball marker for my students. Each marker has a collection of words and phrases we talk about during our lessons and can be used as a tool to help them remember our process while they are on the course. One side says WIN (what's important now), Present, Process, Commit and the other says Accept, Reflect, Repeat, Never Give Up!

My Students' Accomplishments 2022

- 39 students were in the top 100 most improved, 7 of the top 10
- Students won both the women's 9 and 18 hole most improved award
- Two girls made their high school teams as freshman, 1 qualified for states
- Four students won their flights in the Club Championships
- Eight students won their flight in Couples League
- Student won the Member-Member, four won their flight
- Two students won their flights in the Women's Invitational
- Two students won their flights in the Men's Invitational
- Three students won their flight in Women's Evening League
- Four students won their flight in the Fall Member Guest
- Student won the Women's Directors Cup match play championship

Private Golf Lessons (year to date): 840

Group Programs

Summer Junior Golf Program: 150 participants

Our summer Junior Program runs for 6 weeks and concludes with the Junior Club Championship. The program participants are classified by the number of holes they play, little linkers (ages 5-7) 1 hole, 3-holers (8-10), 5-holers (11-12), 9 and 18-holers (13 and up). Juniors can play up based on their scores. Every Tuesday, juniors attend two 15-minute clinics (4 to 1 student to teacher ratio). One clinic takes place on the putting green and the other takes place on the range. After the clinic they go on the course to play.

Weekly Women's Clinics: 40 clinics (weekly) averaging 4 students per session

The weekly clinics were twice a week during the winter on our simulators and once a week during the season. We covered all topics.

Putting Clinics: 4 clinics, averaging 6 students per session

One hour clinic focusing on the three putting skills, speed, face control, and green reading. Each student received a brochure with the class material as well as practice methods and games.

Wedge Clinics: 2 clinics, averaging 5 students per session

One hour clinic focused on wedges and how to control distance. Each student built their wedge matrix that they could keep in their bag.

Chipping Clinics: 2 clinics, averaging 6 students per session

One hour clinic focused on the fundamentals of chipping, including club selection and distance control. Each student received a brochure with the class material.

3-Hole Women's League: 2 sessions (4 weeks per session) averaging 30 students

This league is designed for new players and runs for four weeks. Each week starts with a 30-minute clinic on a specific topic. Players then play 3 holes followed by dinner. The ladies have so much fun with this program that it has grown from 15 players last year to 30 and some continue to play in the league even though their skill level has progressed beyond it.

Help, I have to Play Golf Today! Clinic: 5 clinics, 17 students

Last year one of my biggest requests was for a last-minute lesson prior to the Women's Evening League. I used this to create the Help, I Have to Play Golf Today! Clinic. This clinic allowed me to accommodate more students and was an opportunity for them to get a few minutes of help before their round each week. This was very well received by the ladies and will be continued going forward.

Elite Junior Coaching: Weekly, 90 minutes each averaging 6 students

Program created for junior golfers wanting to play competitive golf. We focus on all aspects of the game.

Women's Welcome to Golf: 4 weeks, 12 students

Our take on Get Golf Ready. Open to golf and social members. Each of the four clinics had an instruction component and a golf knowledge component, including, facility tour, how to drive a golf cart, and rules discussion on the course.

Drive, Chip and Putt Series: 4 sessions (4 clinics per session) averaging 10 students

This clinic focused on the three aspects of the competition. Each clinic had a teaching component and a competition component. The final clinic was a mock competition.

Scott Shapin, PGA
Director of Instruction
Pine Lake Country Club
Orchard Lake, MI

2017 Middle Atlantic PGA Section Assistant Professional of the Year
2011 Southwest PGA Section Assistant of the Year

2023 Special Awards Candidate Bio Form

Please send this form back no later Friday, October 21, 2022.

If you were nominated for more than one award you must **submit a bio form for each award**.

Email *

shaunbezilla@pga.com

Name of Nominee: *

Shaun Bezilla

Award Nominated for: *

Player Development Award

Facility Employed at: *

Harbor Point Golf Club

Year Elected to Membership: *

1995

Please describe your achievements/accomplishments that would pertain to this award. *

Currently the Head Golf Professional at Harbor Point Golf Club, growth of the game has been efforts have been an integral part of my background. Certified in both Wright Balance and K-Vest Biomechanics, I work to offer students of all skill levels a comprehensive game improvement that meets their needs and desires. I utilize CoachNow training spaces for students so that our interactions can be consistent and continuous while offering lesson packages in programs rather than standard time vs money offerings. I offer GC Quad analytics for those who desire to know more. When combined with the variety of game enhancing golf schools, camps and clinics I am offering something for everyone.

In addition, I am also a First Tee Coach having gone through a comprehensive training program. I attended my first PGA Teaching & Coaching Summit and continue to strive to learn more and improve my skillset. I am a former Junior Golf Leader award winner Michigan Section and am honored to once again receive recognition via nomination for this award.

This form was created inside of PGA HQ and sections - all Google users.

Google Forms

2023 Special Awards Candidate Bio Form

Please send this form back no later Friday, October 21, 2022.

If you were nominated for more than one award you must **submit a bio form for each award.**

Email *

tylerwong@pga.com

Name of Nominee: *

TYLER WONG

Award Nominated for: *

Player Development Award

Facility Employed at: *

Sunnybrook Golf and Country Club

Year Elected to Membership: *

2017

Please describe your achievements/accomplishments that would pertain to this award. *

Being able to influence a golfer's skill, enjoyment and overall experience is the reason that I'm in the golf business!

Each season, like all of us, I try and create the best programs that target the largest demographic as possible. My specific focus this year was to target all of the new or "returning to golf" players that took up the game over the last 3 years.

Highlights of the year...

- Coach of the PGA Jr League 13U Team that advanced to the state championship.
- Increased Ladies Academy from 18 to 58 players.
- Junior Academy (Ages 7-17) increased from 127 to 155 players.
- Future 36ers (Ages 3-6) increased from 19 to 37 players.
- Introduced, in partnership with the City of Grand Rapids, a 4-week city employee golf and health clinic.
- New Golfer Bootcamp increased from 9 to 20 players.
- Maintained 120 players, from 19 different countries, that participate in online only coaching. From those players, 7 players won individual collegiate events, 4 US Kids Golf World Championship participants, including the girls 9-year-old champion, two PGA Tour Latin America players and 4 high school state champions from 3 different states.

Student highlights of the year...

- Mexico National Champion - 9-year-old girls
- US Amateur participant
- Senior PGA Championship Participant
- 28 high school state championship participants
- 4 club championship wins
- 18 tournament wins

Player development goals of the year...

- 93% of players advanced at least one level through the Operation 36 program. 102 players advanced at least 2 levels.
- 71% of players played more golf this year.
- 29% of players increased player development participation. 64% maintained the same as last year.
- Partnered with 2 medical facilities to provide TPI, golf fitness and physical therapy to players.
- Maintained certifications with Operation 36, ADM, US Kids Golf and TPI.

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2023 Special Awards Candidate Bio Form

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If you were nominated for more than one award you must **submit a bio form for each award**.

Email *

willellender@mac.com

Name of Nominee: *

Will Ellender

Award Nominated for: *

Player Development

Facility Employed at: *

Fox Hills

Year Elected to Membership: *

1994

Please describe your achievements/accomplishments that would pertain to this award. *

Without our exceptional facility and supportive ownership, consideration for this award would not be possible.

This year we will have had over 500 junior golfers in our programs.

All of our programs utilize Trackman 4, high speed video and V1 software.

We conducted five, five day junior camps throughout the summer, all sold out with 36 kids per session.

We coached three PGA Junior League teams, each team was filled with 12 players.

We teach year round, quarterly Boy's Club Level 1 and Level 2, as well as Girl's Club Level 1 and Level 2 classes, meeting on weekends, with two sessions offered in the summer quarter.

We also coach a number of high school players, and conducted a week long camp as well as group and private coaching through our the year.

We coached a full-day golf school of three days for 24 of our students with PGA Tour Teacher Andy Plummer.

I am the head coach for the Salem High School boy's golf team, Jordan Brown is the head coach for Canton High, and Victor Whipp is the head coach of the East Lansing boy's golf team.

In addition to these programs, I also maintain a private teaching practice.

- PGA member since 1994
- K-Vest Level 3
- TPI Level 3
- Authorized Stack and Tilt Instructor
- Certified Movement Specialist, Tathata Golf
- Extraordinary Golf
- Trackman University

I've been fortunate to have had expert coaching in my life, and fee the presence of my mentors Carl Welty and Johnny Meyers during every lesson I give.

Thanks for the nomination, thanks to all of my coaches, and my wife and daughter for allowing me to do what I do.

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