



• Pittsburgh Youth Golf Foundation
The Busy Months of April, May, June, July 2010

**April 20 -
May 19**

Spring Pittsburgh Public School Clinics commenced on April 20th and ran for a total of five clinics teaching an estimated 355 youth in four middle schools... Brookline K-8, South Brook, Sterrett and the Student Achievement Center. Instructors are certified members of the PGA and LPGA. Youth were provided with information so they could secure caddy positions at local country clubs and a golf mentor program was put in place.

Our concluding events occurred on May 19th with Eric Johnson providing a Golf Tricks Show at Oakmont East Golf Course followed by an Awards Finale at Oakmont Country Club. We were privileged and honored to have Mayor Luke Ravenstahl as our keynote speaker. To complement this, the General Manager and the Grounds Maintenance Supervisor both delivered exhilarating presentations for the students regarding the behind-the-scenes preparations for the 2010 U.S. Women's Open.

At the Finale, four students from each school received certificates reflecting positive character traits. We are proud to report that over 18 companies donated product for this event or supported the spring program in various ways.

May 5

Holy Family Institute and their youth visited the Robert Morris University Sports Dome once a month throughout the winter where the PYGF provided certified golf instructors. On May 5th, the children visited Scally's Golf Center where they reviewed social skills such as how to greet, safety, fundamentals, and exercises. Here, they walked a Par 3 for the first time in their series of clinics to learn first-hand golf rules and etiquette.

**April 29 –
May 20**

The Spring Parochial School Clinics consisted of four Thursdays in the month of May. 71 students registered for clinics that were held at centrally located schools ~ St. Bede and St. Cyril. In the past, we had also included Elizabeth Seton but that school was closed at the end of 2009. Each ran for 4 weeks in the spring. A total of 14 parochial schools in the Pittsburgh area were involved. St. Bede started in April while St. Cyril started their clinics in May. On May 20th, St. Bede's final day, a competition occurred between the two groups on the putting green at Robert Morris University Sports Dome. This has been an annual competition between students at St. Cyril and was extended to include St. Bede this year. The competition is called the St. Cyril Challenge complete with a trophy and a Master of Ceremony – one of our PGA instructors. St. Cyril won.

May 17

Spring Charity Golf Outing at Allegheny Country Club had to be cancelled at the just prior to the shotgun start due to intense rain and a temperature of



50 degrees.

May 18

This was a busy day for PYGF. We hosted two concluding programs for youth who attend Holy Family Institute and Girls Golf.

Holy Family Institute concluded 9 months of instruction at Scally's Golf Center. Here, the youth played the Pitch and Putt. After play, participants were treated with a nutritionally balanced BBQ lunch. As policy at HFI does not permit us to provide these youth with golf equipment, we distributed PYGF jerseys to all.

The first five weeks of our school program, children were divided into two class periods at HFI. We provided three certified professional golf instructors. Initially, there were 21 Day School youth and 13 Residential youth. By the end of the program, we had an estimated 14 children in attendance. See explanation below. The Site-Coordinator, in his comprehensive end of year assessment, felt the youth made great strides in changing attitudes and their manners.

A decrease in population occurs throughout our program as youth are discharged and sent back to their families, there are runaways and others cannot attend due to misbehavior.

Girls Golf

The final session of the 2009/2010 Pittsburgh Girls was held at Scally's Par Three Course. A greeting followed by an overview of the nights activities. The girls were broken into four; foursomes to put into practice on the golf course what they had spent the last seven months learning and practicing. The event was a unquestioned success. Each of the young women had an undisputed good time and had surprising success for their first time on a golf course. Their use of the rules and etiquette was proof of their hard work. The session was concluded with a meal and the presenting of awards. Eleven young women were recognized for their achievements and accomplishments and two girls received a merit award of a set of clubs. Every girl went home with at least one new club. Without question every girl made unprecedented strides this year.

Clinics for Girls' Golf were held from September 2009 through May of 2010. The first 5 weeks in the fall were held in the Allderdice High School cafeteria. For repeat students during this time period, skill sets involving the game of golf, however, seemed to be gaining strength as the young women seemed more interested and well behaved. Greater strides were also made in self esteem, behavior and life skills. From November through April, clinics were held at the Robert Morris University Island Sports Dome.

May 28

Memorial Day Weekend ~ Passes to local golf courses go into effect for students enrolled in our spring programs with the exception of Holy Family Institute which has particular guidelines we work within. Participating courses are: North and South Park County Golf Courses and the Bob O'Connor Golf Course at Schenley Park.



June Brings Summer Weather



June 22- July 2

The Foundation held its annual Pittsburgh Public Schools Summer Golf Camp at Scally's Golf Center. 44 children registered for camp this year and 37 children were on our final roster. Approximately half of the attendees were repeat campers. At camp, the children expanded on what they had learned from previous exposure to our programs. Aside from improving skills, they learned vocabulary, golf etiquette, had scrambles, "beat the pro" competition and many more challenging events.

On the final day, a competition was held between the teams of Jared Friedman, camper paired with Karen Bennett, LPGA and Isaac Miller, camper paired with Terry Shell, PGA. The winning team was Jared Friedman/Terry Shell. The remainder of the campers looked on as the boys walked 3 holes. Some of the students acted as caddies and PGA professional Ron Lucas reviewed the rules for the competition. At the end, all competitors shook hands. Parents and past campers were guests for the day.

At the awards ceremony, Phil Scally, Jr. was the Master of Ceremony and the volunteers assisted in the distribution of sets of clubs for each qualifying camper. We estimate that about 15 parents attended this special event.

We were privileged to have four volunteers to help Phil Scally, Jr. coordinate and execute all the programming that is needed daily at camp. Leann LeMasters, Johnathan Resch, Victoria Resch, and Chris Walco helped with distribution of equipment and return, cleaned fruit, assembled lunches and retrieved beverages, etc. All of the volunteers had special assignments for the Finale.



July Headlines...

July 5 - 11 The LPGA brought the 65th U.S. Women's Open to Oakmont Country Club. This was the second time that Oakmont has hosted this event. Oakmont, created in 1903, first hosted the U.S. Women's Open in 1992. It is ranked #5 in Golf Digest's "America's Top 100 Courses. At the conclusion of the competition, Paula Creamer, from Pleasanton, California, was declared the winner of the 2010 U.S. Women's Open.

The Pittsburgh Youth Golf Foundation was honored to be invited to work alongside the U.S. Women's Open Committee with the goal to involve children from the Pittsburgh Youth Golf Foundation and The First Tee of Pittsburgh in the golf activities at the Open. The experiences of the youth at the event were both fun and educational. The youth served as volunteers in either program sales or as standard bearers for the Open. Through their work, they learned about responsibility, respect, and got a taste of "meet and greet" socialization. The youth were also very lucky to be able to follow their favorite golf players in their free time.

A total of 35 volunteers, including 4 parent chaperones, helped out at the event. Some of the participants were graduates of our Girls Golf, Public School, and Pittsburgh Diocese Golf programs. To assist the children with transportation, the Foundation provided complimentary transportation to them. Meal service was also extended free of charge to our participating youth.

July 6 - 16 Summer Golf Camp had 48 children registered for camp and 39 children were on our final roster. Of interest is that 39 of the campers were in our spring parochial golf clinics. 13% of the attendees were repeat campers. The two-week long camp provided comprehensive instruction to first year campers and repeat campers refined their skills. Aside from improving skills, they learned vocabulary, golf etiquette, had scrambles, "beat the pro" competition and many more challenging events.

The final day of camp had many new twists. At the end of instruction, we had a two-hole challenge between two of our campers and two members of the LPGA. Scott Benko, camper played with Terry Shell, PGA and Max Opiela, camper played with Karen Bennett, LPGA. The remaining campers acted as a cheering gallery. Each player had a caddy from camp and another camper was the placard holder. The Benko/Shell team won. The campers loved the addition to the day.

At the awards ceremony, Phil Scally, Jr. was the Master of Ceremony and the volunteers assisted in the distribution of sets of clubs for each qualifying camper. The three volunteers for camp this year were Johnnothan Resch, Victoria Resch, and Michael Silvestri. Each camper received personal recognition by their instructor. As an added surprise, our bus monitor, Kathy Moser, made a spectacular sheet cake complete with group pictures of the campers and golf balls made of white icing. It was finger licking good and received oohs and awes from the crowd. 42 parents pre-registered that they were coming to witness the Finale and this included some graduates of our program.

July 19

Take Your Daughter to the Course is a program endorsed the LPGA. This has become an annual event for the Foundation. 3 Lakes Golf Course formerly Alcoma Golf Course graciously allowed us to use their facility. Parents and grandparents brought their daughters and in some cases their sons for the event.



14 people attended.

After a picnic dinner, 3 Lakes Golf Course Head Pro, Dave Gedris, had a junior clinic for all the attendees, which included hands-on demonstrations and chipping practice on Hole #1. To finish the clinic, Dave had a friendly putting contest between the youth and adults vs. adults. Prizes were awarded to the winners. The children had a wonderful time playing alongside their friends and family members. It was a beautiful evening for twilight golf even though it was interrupted with a brief rain storm.

July 26

Spring Golf Outing at Allegheny Country Club. Our Board Members did a great job reaching out to friends and colleagues asking them to join this PYGF event. The outing was originally scheduled for mid-May, but due to a severe rain storm, the event had to be rescheduled for the summer. Fortunately on the rescheduled day, the weather decided to cooperate and it turned out to be a beautiful day for golf with temperatures soaring into the 80's. Afternoon events included lunch, an auction of sports memorabilia, hotels, etc., award recognitions and a 50/50 raffle. At the end of the day, the Spring Golf Outing was touted as a very successful event.

Bobby Rahal Automotive Group joined us for the first time this year offering a Hole-in-One challenge. Additionally they provided a drawing prize of a golf bag.



Special Notice

JR Stragar, who volunteered at our summer golf camps for a few years while he was in high school and attended PYGF spring clinics and summer golf camps for 3 years. JR will be attending Carnegie Mellon University in the fall. He has participated in extensive golf competition in the region over the past few years. He also helped out as a golf instructor at The First Tee in Pittsburgh giving guidance to those younger than him.

Mary Epondulan will be attending California University in PA in January 2011. She is in vying for a golf scholarship at that university. Mary enrolled in our program as soon as she arrived in Pittsburgh from the Philippines. She was in 7th grade when she entered our program and attended multiple spring clinics and our summer golf camps. Mary went on to join her high school golf team placing over multiple years in the City of Pittsburgh High School Golf Championship.

She qualified to go onto State in October 2009. While in high school, Mary also participated in our Girls Golf Program.

Mary Crisafio will be attending Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, Ohio (outside of Cleveland) in September on a partial academic scholarship. For many years, Mary participated was in our spring clinics and upon entering high school she joined the Alderdice Golf Team in Pittsburgh where she was the only female. Mary later moved to the Linsly School in Wheeling, WV to complete her high school degree. At Linsly, Mary was the Captain of the Girls Golf Team.

The Board of Directors of the PYGF, wishes to congratulate all our graduates for all their achievements and wish them success in all their future endeavors. Best wishes on this new chapter in your lives at college.

