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PRESS RELEASE – For Immediate Release

HOOD, GRACE NAMED STEWART GREGORY AWARD RECIPIENTS

Joe Hood (Warren Central) and Jessica Grace (Henderson County) have been named the 2025 Stewart Gregory Award recipients. The Stewart Gregory Award recognizes golf coaches that dedicate their time teaching, inspiring, encouraging, challenging, and building teams as community and family leaders.

The Bluegrass Golf Foundation (BGF) developed the award to recognize high school golf coaches. The ideals associated with the award capture the athletic and coaching talent of Stewart Gregory having coached basketball at Monticello and Wayne County High Schools as well as golf at Wayne County. While Gregory lost his three-year battle with cancer, his legacy as a coach in multiple sports lives on through this coaching award.

“The Bluegrass Golf Foundation is committed to supporting coaches that dedicate their time leading and developing high school golf teams. There is a natural connection between annual recognition of a boys and girls golf coach with the ideals Stewart Gregory provided to student athletes in multiple sports,” said Chris Redle, Executive Director of the BGF. “High School coaches spend much of their time during the golf season away from their own family while building their teams. This commitment extends beyond the golf season as coaches develop student athletes throughout the year. The BGF is honored to work with the Gregory family to provide recognition to golf coaches with the Stewart Gregory Award.”

Hood’s coaching service during his time at his alma mater includes Head Golf Coach at Warren Central for 13 years, Head Girls’ Basketball Coach for 9 years, Assistant Coach for volleyball for one-year, Assistant Coach for boys’ and girls’ tennis for 3 years, Co-Athletic Director for 3 years, and Assistant Athletic Director for one year. Coach Hood was an accomplished golfer and basketball player at Warren Central with 4 trips to the State Basketball Championship including the 2004 State Championship, and he went on to play golf collegiately at Lindsey Wilson. After being informed about receiving this award, Hood replied “I want to extend my deepest thanks to the WCHS golf team – both current players and those from past seasons – as well as my incredible teammates over the years. Being a part of the golf community has given me more than just a game; it has given me lifetime friendships, unwavering support, and countless moments of encouragement throughout both my coaching and playing career.”

Grace has been teaching at Henderson County for 23 years and just completed her 12th season as coach of the girls’ golf team. Coach Grace started her own playing career in Wisconsin on the boys’ team as there was not a girl’s golf team at her school. After moving to Texas, she was able to compete in girls’ golf in the fall and spring on the way to earning a golf scholarship at Murray State. Grace was the first MSU Lady Racer golfer inducted into the Murray State Athletic Hall of Fame and won the KY State Amateur Championship in 2007 at Miller Memorial GC. Involvement in the future of golf goes deeper

than just coaching as Grace is the first woman on the KGA Executive Board and is the Co-President of the Kentucky Golf Coaches Association. Golf has always been a shared family passion for the Grace family including Jessica’s husband Nathan and her sons Aidan and Keegan, and some of their best memories have been made on the course together.

Both Hood and Grace note that receiving an award developed after Coach Gregory lost his battle with cancer carries deeper appreciation after their own battles with cancer. As Grace stated after receiving the award, “Coach Gregory was a devoted leader whose life was cut short by kidney cancer. I am grateful every day that a routine mammogram caught my cancer early... Without my faith in God, the love of my family and friends, and the strength I found through the game of golf, I would not be standing here today. Accepting this award is both humbling and a blessing!” Coach Hood adds, “Coach Gregory’s legacy is one of strength, character, and impact — and I will continue working hard to honor that legacy in everything I do.”

Hood and Grace will be recognized during an awards banquet as part of the Bluegrass Cup at the Holiday Inn-University Plaza Sloan Convention Center on Saturday, October 25. Tickets for the dinner are available by donating to the BGF by [... CLICKING HERE >>](#).

ABOUT THE BLUEGRASS GOLF FOUNDATION: The Bluegrass Golf Foundation was founded in 2018 to promote regional tournament programs with a focus on growing the game of golf. The Foundation will assist players wishing to pursue golf at the collegiate level by providing guidance and educational opportunities focused on preparing them for this experience. For more information about the Bluegrass Golf Foundation, please reach out to Chris Redle at CRedle@BluegrassGolfTour.com.

ABOUT THE BLUEGRASS CUP: 48 players have earned an invitation to participate in the Bluegrass Cup at Crosswinds GC on October 25-26. The top eight players in each 18-Hole Division (Boys & Girls 15-18, Boys 12-14, and Girls 14 & Under) and Boys 11-12 (9-Hole) Division plus the top four player in two other 9-Hole Divisions (Boys 10 & Under and Girls 12 & Under) will compete in a Ryder Cup style event. 9-Hole team matches will be held on October 25 followed by singles matches on October 26.

