



WELCOME TO WESTFIELD COUNTRY CLUB AND THE 103rd ...



NORTHERN OHIO

THE NORTHERN OHIO SECTION OF THE PROFESSIONAL GOLFERS' ASSOCIATION AND WESTFIELD COUNTRY CLUB WELCOME YOU TO THE 103RD PLAYING OF THE OHIO OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP.

THE OHIO OPEN IS ONE OF THE OLDEST AND MOST PRESTIGIOUS TOURNAMENTS IN THE STATE. IT ATTRACTS PROFESSIONALS AND AMATEURS FROM ACROSS OHIO – SOME OF THE BEST PLAYERS IN THE STATE – AND HAS BEEN WON BY SOME OF THE MOST ILLUSTRIOUS NAMES IN GOLF, DATING TO 1927.

THE FOLLOWING PAGES CONTAIN RECORDS OF PREVIOUS OPENS AND INFORMATION REGARDING THIS YEAR'S TOURNAMENT. IF YOU CANNOT FIND WHAT YOU ARE LOOKING FOR FEEL FREE TO ASK FOR ASSISTANCE.

ATTENTION MEDIA: The NOPGA always welcomes any coverage provided by the print and electronic media. Daily releases, including scores and highlights, will be emailed ASAP throughout the tournament and players and officials are always available for interviews. Carts will be provided for the media to help in your coverage.

103rd OHIO OPEN FAST FACTS

WHEN: July 1-2-3, 2024

WHERE: Westfield Country Club, North and South Courses, 6500 Greenwich Rd., Westfield Center, Ohio.

WHO: A record total of 288 professionals (139) and amateurs (149) from throughout Ohio have entered. The event attracted players from more than 100 cities and 44 of Ohio's 88 counties.

CONDUCTED BY: The Northern Ohio Section of the Professional Golfers Association of America (NOPGA).

TITLE SPONSOR: Pyramid Treating **PRESENTING SPONSOR:** DEX Imaging.

FORMAT: 54 holes, stroke play. Cut to the low 60 scores plus ties after the second round.

ABOUT WESTFIELD: Westfield Country Club is one of the finest facilities in Ohio. It opened as a 9-hole course in 1937. The South Course is the older of the two and will play to 6,774 yards. The North Course opened in 1975 and will play to 6,733 yards. Both have a par-70. Both courses underwent major renovations from 2017 to 2020. The club has a two-acre practice tee, chipping green, almost 30,000 square feet of practice putting greens and two full practice holes, the old first and 18th on the North Course. (**More on WCC listed below.**)

DEFENDING CHAMPION: Brandywine Country Club assistant head professional Michael Balcar shot rounds of 66-65-65=196 (14-under). His total set a tournament scoring record for Ohio Opens played at Westfield. The previous record was 198, set by 2013 winner Colin Biles, of Columbus. Balcar is a Toledo native and graduate of Cleveland State University.

NO ROOM AT THE INN: For the second consecutive year the Ohio Open field is maxed out at 288 professionals and amateurs and the allure of winning one of the most prestigious golf tournaments in the state has attract. **The previous record was 276 entries, set in 2022.**

THE OPEN IS A SLICE OF OHIO (no pun intended): The tournament field consists of 135 professionals and 154 amateurs. It contains players of all ages and both genders. **More than 100 cities and 40 of Ohio's 88 counties are represented.**

ENCORE, ENCORE X 11: Eleven former champions have entered the 103rd Ohio Open, including last year's champion, **Toledo's Michael Balcar** and three-time champions **Bob Sowards, of Dublin**, and **Rob Moss, of Broadview Heights**, as well as **Bellefontaine's Stephen Gangluff**, the last man to win back-to-back titles in 2018 and 2019.

THE OHIO 11: Former winners in the 2024 field and where they won:

Michael Balcar (Toledo)	2023	Westfield CC
Jake McBride (Hartville)	2021	Westfield CC
Alex Weiss (Pickerington)	2020	Weymouth/Fox Meadow
Stephen Gangluff (Marysville)	2019	Weymouth/Fox Meadow
Stephen Gangluff (Marysville)	2018	Weymouth/Fox Meadow
Chase Wilson (Newark)	2017	Weymouth/Fox Meadow
TT Crouch (Fredericktown)	2016	Westfield CC

Tim Ailes (Delaware)	2014	Westfield CC
Colin Biles (Columbus)	2013	Westfield CC
Bob Sowards (Dublin)	2010	Quail Hollow CC
Rob Moss (Broadview Hts.)	2005	Barrington/Walden
Bob Sowards (Dublin)	2004	Barrington/Walden
Bob Sowards (Dublin)	2002	Tam O'Shanter
Rob Moss (Broadview Hts.)	2001	Tam O'Shanter
Rob Moss (Broadview Hts.)	1999	Tam O'Shanter
Chris Black (Lancaster)	1998	Tam O'Shanter

THE TOP 10 FINISHERS FROM 2023 (with notes)

1. Michael Balcar, Toledo: 66-65-65=196 (-14): CSU grad, Brandywine asst.
2. (a) Cade Breitenstine, Akron: 64-64-69=197 (-13): Kent State grad; now a pro
3. Nick Carlson, Springfield: 66-65-68=199 (-11): 2024 Next Tour champion
4. (a) Jack Vojtko Stow: 67=66-71=204 (-6): Soph at Ohio State.
- T5. (a) Bryce Haney, Huber Heights: 69-71-65=205 (-5): 2021 Wright State grad
- T5. (a) Joe Wilson IV, West Chester: 72-67-66=205 (-5): Junior at OSU
- T5. Kevin Hall, Cincinnati: 69-65-71=205 (-5): Former Big 10 champ (OSU)
8. Jake McBride, Hartville: 72-69-65=206 (-4): 2021 Ohio Open champ
- T9. TT Crouch, Fredericktown: 72-69-66=206 (-3): 2016 Ohio Open champ
- T9. (a) Troy Taylor, Westerville: 69-70-68=207 (-3): Son of former OSU & Canton McKinley hoops star
- T9. Ethan Tracy, Columbus: 70-68-69=207 (-3): Un. of Arkansas grad; 2017 Korn Ferry Tour winner
- T9: Nathan Tarter, Mogadore: 67-71-69=207 (-3): Malone grad; asst @Chippewa
- T9. Ryan Yip, Kent: 67-74-67=207 (-3): 4-time all-MAC player, KSU assistant.

WHAT ABOUT BOB (Sowards?): The Dublin resident and one of the most decorated players in the field has an opportunity to become just the third player in Open history to win four times. Sowards, who has won five consecutive OHIO SENIOR OPEN titles, is one of seven players to win both the Ohio Open and the Ohio Senior Open. ***NO ONE has ever won both in the same year.*** Only two players, **Denny Shute** (1929, 1930, 1931 and 1950) and **Billy Burke** (1938, 1939, 1945 and 1955) have won FOUR OHIO OPEN championships.

PLAYERS THAT HAVE WON THE OHIO OPEN AND THE OHIO SENIOR OPEN

Player	Ohio Open	Ohio Senior Open
Bob Sowards	2002, 2004, 2010	2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023
Gary Robison	1986	2004, 2010, 2015, 2018
Gary Trivisonno	1979	2008, 2011
Jim Logue	1980	1993, 1994, 1995
Mitch Camp	1985, 1993	2009
Martin Roesink	1976	1991
Dick Plummer	1973	1992

WHAT ABOUT ROB (Moss?): Moss, head professional at The Pepper Pike Club and a three-time NPGA Player-of-the-Year, is in a similar position as Sowards. Moss has won three Ohio Open titles (1999, 2001, 2005) but has been unable to add the Senior Open to his many championships.

HERE ARE THE OHIO OPEN MULTIPLE CHAMPIONS

FOUR TITLES

Denny Shute (1929, 1930, 1931, 1950)

Billy Burke (1938, 1939, 1945, 1955)

THREE TITLES

Bob Sowards (2002, 2004, 2010)

Rob Moss (1999, 2001, 2005)

Bob Wynn (1970, 1971, 1972)

Bob Shave Jr. (1958, 1962, 1963)

Frank Stranahan (1948, 1960, 1961)

Byron Nelson (1940, 1941, 1942)

Al Espinosa (1932, 1933, 1936)

TWO TITLES

Justin Lower (2012, 2015)

Chris Smith (1992, 1994)

Mitch Camp (1985, 1993)

Frank Boynton Jr. (1966, 1967)

Herman Keiser (1949, 1951)

Stephen Gangluff (2018, 2019)

Emmett French (1922, 1924)

Al Espinosa (1932, 1933)

MOLDOVAN, BAILEY HELP ENHANCE THE FIELD: Uniontown's Maxwell Moldovan, newly-turned professional and the most decorated player ever to come out of Ohio State and reigning Ohio Amateur champion Andrew Bailey, of Shaker Heights, are part of the field in the Open. Moldovan, who has played in three U.S. Opens, recently helped OSU to a third-place finish in the NCAA Championship, the program's best finish since 1979. He graduated after posting the lowest scoring average (71.25) in OSU history and having the most career rounds at par or better (86) and having the most career rounds in the 60s (48). During his collegiate career the 22-year-old had four victories, 19 top-10 finishes and 31 top-20 finishes.

Bailey, a Cleveland State University graduate and member of Canterbury Golf Club, won the 117th Ohio Amateur by two strokes at his home course last July with rounds of 73-68-67-72 = 280. He is no stranger to the Open or Westfield. He is one of 14 players to shoot the low round of 6-under 64, doing so during the first round in 2014.

THE OHIO OPEN: HISTORICAL STAIRWAY TO STARDOM

How significant is winning the Ohio Open? Past winners have gone on to illustrious careers. Three former champions – **Jack Nicklaus (1956)**, **Byron Nelson (1940-41-42)** and **Denny Shute (1929-30-31-1950)** – are in the **World Golf Hall of Fame**. **Billy Burke (1938-39-45-55)** is in the **PGA Hall of Fame**.

Those four and 12 others have been inducted into the **Ohio Golf HOF**. Included in that group are **Mitch Camp** (1985, 1993), **Bob Sowards** (2002, 2004, 2010), **Rob Moss** (1999, 2001, 2005), **Don Padgett II** (1988), **Gary Robison** (1986), **Jim Logue** (1980), **Gary Trivisonno** (1979), **Bobby Lewis** (1978), **Tom Weiskopf** (1965), **Herman Keiser** (1949, 1951), **Frank Stranahan** (1948, 1960-1961) and **Al Espinosa** (1932-33).

THEY HAD MAJOR ISSUES: Winners of the Ohio Open have won 29 of golf's majors. Obviously, **Jack Nicklaus** leads with 18. **Byron Nelson** won five and **Denny Shute** won three. **Herman Keiser**, **Billy Burke** and **Tom Weiskopf** have one each.

PLAYER	OHIO OPEN	MASTERS	US OPEN	OPEN CHAMP.	PGA	TOT
Jack Nicklaus	1956	6	4	3	5	18
Byron Nelson	1940-41-42	2	1	0	2	5
Denny Shute	1929-30-31-50	0	0	1	2	3
Billy Burke	1938-39-45-55	0	1	0	0	1
Herman Keiser	1951	1	0	0	0	1
Tom Weiskopf	1965	0	0	1	0	1

PAST OHIO CHAMPIONS HAVE GONE ON TO WIN:

- * 29 major championships
- * 9 Masters
- * 6 United States Opens
- * 5 British Opens
- * 9 PGA Championships
- * 198 PGA victories

THE RETURN TO WESTFIELD: For the fourth consecutive year and for the eighth time since 2013 Westfield Country Club will play host to the Ohio Open Championship. Westfield is an ideal site for a major tournament. The Open began a four-year run at Westfield in 2013 and NOPGA officials were thrilled to return when the renovations to both courses were completed in 2019.

Weymouth and Fox Meadow country clubs were more than suitable hosts beginning in 2017.

WHEN THE OHIO OPEN HAS BEEN HELD AT WESTFIELD COUNTRY CLUB

<i>Year</i>	<i>Winner/score</i>	<i>Runnersup/scores</i>
2013	Colin Biles (Columbus) 68-65-65=198	John Hahn (Hudson)/Tim Ailes (Lewis Cntr) 200
2014	Tim Ailes (Lewis Cntr) 69-66-66=201	Kevin Hall (Cincinnati) 201 (PO)
2015	Justin Lower (Canal Fulton) 68-65-66=199	Nick Palladino (Highland Hts), Alec Tahy (Dayton), Jake Scott (Strongs.) 201
2016	TT Crouch (Mt. Vernon) 63-70-67=200	Ryan Gutowski (Akron), Ian Holt (Stow) 201
2021	Jake McBride (Hartville) 62-67=129 * McBride won with a birdie on first playoff hole.	Justin Lower (Canal Fulton) 65-64-129
2022	Jordan Gilkison (Springboro) 72-63-65=200	Mikkkel Mathieson (Beavercreek) 69-65-67 – 201.
2023	Michael Balcar (Toledo) 66-65-65=196 ** Balcar's score is a tournament record	Cade Breinstine (Akron) 64-64-69=197

TURN ON THE SPOTLIGHT: Every tournament has its marquee pairings and the Open is no different. Here are some of the top first-round groupings in 2024:

TT Crouch, DJ Holub, Dan Belden: Crouch was the 2016 Ohio Open champ. DJ Holub, an assistant at the Pepper Pike Club, is one of the NOPGA's rising stars. Belden has been one of the area's top amateurs since graduating from Arizona State in 1991. **#10 tee on the North at 8:15 a.m.**

Stephen Gangluff, Bob Sowards, Jake McBride: Gangluff is the last man to win back-to-back Open titles, winning in 2018-2019. Sowards is a three-time Ohio Open champion (2002, 2004, 2010) and McBride won the Open in 2021. **#10 tee on the North at 1:05 p.m.**

Tim Ailes, Michael Balcar, Colin Biles: Ailes was the 2014 Ohio Open champ, Biles won in 2013 and Balcar won in 2023. **#1 tee on the South at 8:15 a.m.**

Rob Moss, Maxwell Moldovan, Andrew Bailey: Moss is a three-time Ohio Open champ (1999, 2001, 2005). Moldovan is the most decorated player to come out of Ohio State and is a former Ohio Amateur champ. Bailey is the reigning Ohio Amateur champ. **#1 tee, on the South at 1:05 p.m.**

THE LOWEST SINGLE-ROUND SCORES IN THE OHIO OPEN AT WESTFIELD

**** Indicates player went on to win the tournament.***

- 61:** Ryan Gutowski (Akron) 3d round South 2016 (30-31)
- 62:** *Jake McBride (Uniontown), 1st round North, 2021 (31-31)
- 63:** * Tim Crouch (Mt. Vernon) 1st round South 2016 (32-31)
Ben Smith (Carrollton) 1st round South 2015 (32-31)
Parker Hewit (Westfield Center) 3d round North 2015 (28-35)
*Jordan Gilkison, 2d round, South, 2022 (32-31)
- 64:** Ian Holt (Stow) 3d round South 2016 (31-33)
Andrew Dorn (West Chester) 1st round North 2016 (31-33)
Danny Lewis (Morrow) 3d round South 2016 (33-31)
Patrick Luth (Medina) 2d round South 2016 (32-32)
Logan Lagodich (Canton) 3d round South 2016 (33-31)
Taylor Zoller (Kent) 2d round North 2015 (31-33)
Tim Ailes (Lewis Center) 1st round North 2015 (31-33)
Austin Sipe (Dayton) 1st round South 2015 (32-32)
Andrew Bailey (Rocky River) 1st round South 2014 (32-32)
John Hahn (Hudson) 1st round South 2013 (34-30)
Tim Ailes (Lewis Center) 1st round South 2013 (31-32)
Boo Timko (Girard) 2d round South 2013 (31-33)
Justin Lower (Canal Fulton), 2d round North, 2021 (31-33)
Cade Breitenstine (Akron), 1st round, South (32-32) 2023; 2d round, North, 2023 (31-33); 2d round North, 2021

WHEN THE TOURNAMENT HAS BEEN PLAYED AT WESTFIELD

LOWEST WINNING SCORE, 54 holes: 196 (-14) by Michael Balcar, 2023
HIGHEST WINNING SCORE, 54 holes: 201 (-11) Tim Ailes and Kevin Hall, 2014. **Note: Ailes won in a two-hole playoff.**

LOWEST FRONT NINE: 28 Parker Hewit, 3d round North, 2015

LOWEST BACK NINE: 30 John Hahn, 1st round South, 2013

Note: Par was changed to 70 on both courses in 2014

GOING BACK-TO-BACK IS RARE IN THE OHIO OPEN

In the 102 years of the Ohio Open – no tournament in 1943 because of WW II -- there have only been 11 repeat winners, only one since 1970 and none at Westfield Country Club. The last repeat winner was Marysville's Stephen Gangluff, who went back-to-back in 2018 and 2019 at Weymouth Country

Club and Fox Meadow Country Club. Gangluff, who played at Ohio State and competed on the PGA, Canadian, Nationwide and Korn Ferry tours, shot 64-66-73—203 (-17) to win in 2018 and 69-64-67 – 200 (-16) but needed to beat Pickerington’s Alex Weiss and Barberton’s Chase Johnson in a playoff to win in 2019.

THE 11 BACK-TO-BACK WINNERS OF THE OHIO OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

Stephen Gangluff (2018-19), at Fox Meadow-Weymouth, split
Bob Wynn (1970-71-72) at Candywood GC
Frank Boynton Jr. (1966 at Sunningdale CC; 1967 at Mayfield CC)
Bob Shave Jr. (1962 at Firestone CC; 1963 at Walnut Hill CC)
Frank Stranahan (1960 at Snyder Park GC; 1961 at Firestone CC)
Dick Shoemaker (1953 at Lake Forest CC; 1954 at Walnut Grove CC)
Byron Nelson (1940 at Sylvania CC; 1941 at Cin. Losantiville CC; 1942 at Mayfield CC)
Billy Burke (1938 at Youngstown CC; 1939 at Miami Valley CC)
Denny Shute (1929 at Tippecanoe CC; 1930 at Elks CC; 1931 at Shawnee CC)
Al Espinosa (1932 at Springfield CC; 1933 at Portage CC)
Albert Alcroft (1926 at Portage CC; 1927 at Toledo CC)

A BUCKEYE FLAVOR: The Ohio Open has been won by several players from Ohio State over the years, including Jack Nicklaus (1956), Tom Weiskopf (1965), Jim Logue (1980), Stephen Gangluff (2018-19) and Mitch Camp (19875). OSU will be well represented in the 103rd Open with five of the 12 current OSU team members having entered. The list includes Maxwell Moldovan (Uniontown), Tyler Groomes (Dublin), Topher Reed (Fairview Park), Tyler Sabo (Ashland) and Jack Vojtko (Stow).

WELCOME TO THE SPECTRUM: NOPGA Hall-of-Famer and 2013 Ohio Senior Open champion Tom Waitrovich is the oldest player in the field at 65 . . . Patrick Myers is the youngest in the field at age 14. Both are from Westlake . . . Waitrovich got a hole-in-one enroute to winning the Senior Open on the Fazio Course at Firestone . . . Patrick, son of St. Ignatius head coach P.J. Myers, got a hole-in-one at the age of 7 at Avon Oaks. He celebrated by buying a round of juice boxes for his pals. Patrick will go off the 10th tee on the South Course at 8:45 a.m. in the first round while Waitrovich, long-time head professional at Lakewood Country Club, goes off #1 at 12:45 on the North.

THREE TO GET READY: Three women – professionals Mary Suitca (Alliance) and Melissa Yeazell (West Chester) and amateur Isabella Goyette (Medina) – are entered.

SUITCA is the head professional at TannenhauF Golf Club in Alliance and regularly plays in NOPGA events. She won the inaugural NOPGA Women’s Professional Championship at Westfield in 2022 and the NOPGA Ladies Championship at Lakewood in 2021. In 2023 she was the runnerup in the Professional Championship at Tippecanoe CC. ***Suitca will go off the first tee on the South Course at 8:55 a.m. in the first round.***

YEAZELL is the head coach at Northern Kentucky University and regularly plays in Southern Ohio PGA events. She won the 2022 SOPGA Women’s Professional Championship and was runnerup in 2023 and was third in 2021. She finished in a tie for fifth in the recent Ohio Women’s Open at Heatherwoode GC. ***Yeazell, co-owner of Tri-County Golf Ranch, a popular 9-hole course in Cincinnati, will go off the first tee of the North Course at 1:05 p.m.***

GOYETTE recently graduated from Medina Highland High School and will attend Kent State in the fall. She is a four-time *Medina Gazette* Player-of-the-Year and was the Division I state runnerup last fall. ***Goyette goes off the 10th tee at 12:45 p.m. on the North Course in the first round.***

MORE ON WESTFIELD’S NORTH AND SOUTH COURSES:

THE SOUTH COURSE is the oldest of the two and will play to 6,774 yards. It is more of a traditional American course with a parkland-style layout featuring tree-lined fairways, water on several holes and a number of doglegs. Originally designed by Geoffrey S. Cornish, it was redesigned by Hurdzan Golf Design and reopened in 2019.

THE NORTH COURSE will play to 6,733 yards and is a links-style course featuring an open terrain with a firm playing surface, links-style bunkering and fescue in the secondary rough. It also was renovated by Hurdzan Golf Design and reopened in 2020.

IT'S ABOUT GROWING THE GAME

The Northern Ohio Section of the PGA, like the other 40 such sections across the country, does more than staging tournaments. Its mission is to help grow the game while giving back to the community. Here is a broader picture of what the NOPGA Foundation is about and some of the projects it conducts.

ABOUT THE NOPGA FOUNDATION

THE NORTHERN OHIO PGA SECTION FOUNDATION is a 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. It is a non-profit organization established to support the Northern Ohio community, with a focus on junior golf, education and scholarships and charities in the area. The Northern Ohio PGA Section Foundation falls under the direction of the NOPGA Section and the PGA of America, as a non-profit organization consisting of more than 450 men and women PGA Professionals serving as experts in business and the game of golf.

Clubs Fore Kids

The Northern Ohio PGA Section Foundation sent a survey to all girls high school golf coaches in the Northern Ohio region in the Spring of 2023. Results show that **50% of girls** high school teams have at least one female that is **sharing or borrowing equipment**. In addition to that, data shows that **41.2% of girls** who do have their own equipment are using equipment that is either **"borderline unusable and dated" or "unusable but it's the best available."**

In an effort to get more girls into golf, this application is particularly for high school and middle school girls golf coaches. As our research has shown high schools girls golf programs aren't afforded the proper resources, equipment, or training to succeed at a high level. The vast majority of high school girls golf programs are using substandard equipment and the Northern Ohio PGA Section Foundation is committed to bridging this gap and providing these female scholar-athletes with a level playing field. **In 2023, 65 sets of golf clubs were distributed to nine girls high school golf teams and individual juniors.** In 2024, **over 100 sets of golf clubs will be distributed to 18 girls high school golf teams and individual juniors.** Included is a set of 10 golf clubs, carry bag, one dozen balls, tees, towel, Youth on Course Membership, and a lesson from a PGA Professional.

PGA HOPE

PGA HOPE (Helping Our Patriots Everywhere) is the flagship military program of PGA REACH, the charitable foundation of the PGA of America. PGA HOPE introduces golf to Veterans with the purpose of enhancing their physical, mental, social and emotional well-being.

The program introduces the game of golf through a developmental 6-8 week curriculum, taught by PGA Professionals trained in adaptive golf and military

cultural competency. All programs are funded by PGA REACH and supplemented by PGA Section Foundations, so the cost of programming is free to all veterans.

In 2024, there are 17 PGA HOPE programs in Northern Ohio that will impact over 300 veterans this year. In addition, after the program ends, there are opportunities to continue with the program through Operation: Play Days, where veterans can pay \$10 and receive lunch and 18 holes of golf at local area courses.

Scholarships

The Northern Ohio PGA Section Foundation Scholarships are \$10,000 scholarships awarded to two high school seniors living in Northern Ohio to further their education. **Since 2020, the Northern Ohio PGA has awarded almost \$70,000 in scholarships to juniors at higher education institutions.**

Scholarship recipients are selected on the basis of community service, academics, outstanding character and demonstrated financial need. Individuals who are permanent residents of Northern Ohio, past or current members of a golf organization (PGA Jr. League, Northern Ohio PGA Junior Tour, Ohio Girls Golf Foundation, etc.), hold a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0, and plan to enroll as a full-time student at an accredited college or university in the United States, are eligible to apply.

In 2021, the NOPGA Section Foundation awarded the inaugural scholarships to **Ben Ellis** and **Rachel DiDonato**. In 2022, the scholarships were awarded for the second year to **Sophia Rosa** and **Daniel Donegan**. Ellis and DiDonato are in their junior years at Siena Heights University and Northern Kentucky University respectively, while Rosa and Donegan are in their sophomore years at Walsh University and Notre Dame University respectively. In 2023, **Fletcher Clark** and **Halle Ellis** were awarded scholarships; Clark is currently a freshman at Ohio State University while Ellis is attending The University of Miami. **In 2024, \$30,000 in scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors at the Kenny Novak Scholarship Day on July 29th at Club Walden.**

Junior Tour Financial Assistance Program

The Northern Ohio PGA Section Foundation awarded \$6,980 to financial aid recipients on the NOPGA Junior Tour to help reduce the cost to families for tournament entries and membership in 2023 and over \$6,000 in 2024. The Section Foundation purchased Junior Tour Memberships for 15 juniors as well as 91 rounds of tournament golf. Some families in need of financial aid fell onto hard times and had medical issues with a parent and unemployment that caused their need for financial aid. This financial assistance program allows juniors who may not have otherwise been able to afford golf, to play in junior events, yet another way that the Northern Ohio PGA is growing the game of golf.

PGA WORKS Fellowship

PGA WORKS is a strategic initiative designed to diversify the golf industry's workforce. Funded by PGA REACH, the charitable foundation of the PGA of America, PGA WORKS leverages fellowships, scholarships, career exploration events, and the PGA WORKS Collegiate Championship to inspire and engage talent from diverse backgrounds to pursue key employment positions across the golf industry.

The PGA WORKS Fellowship is a one-year, full-time contract with a PGA Section to be fully immersed in the responsibilities of a Section staff member. As a Fellow, you get to experience the work behind the scenes, Player Development Programs, Social Media, Marketing, Tournament Operations, and so much more. It is an initiative from PGA REACH to try and diversify the golf industry's workforce.

Anyone who has recently graduated from college or graduate school can be a Fellow. The Fellowship is designed for underrepresented groups in golf (women, people of color, military, etc.) but everyone is encouraged to apply and be a part of the golf industry's workforce. The Northern Ohio PGA has had six PGA WORKS Fellows since the programs start.

Grants

Thanks to the overwhelming amount of donations from the 4th Smucker's Birdies & Charity, the NOPGA Section Foundation was able to award \$30,000 of grants to six area organizations that share a similar mission to the NOPGA Section Foundation in 2023. Since 2019, over \$100,000 in grants have been awarded to local charities.

For more information on the Northern Ohio PGA Section Foundation, please reach out to the section office at 216-765-1214 or dmonas@pgahq.com.

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