

Volunteer of the Year Award

I don't play golf. That was the response Will Carr, the inaugural recipient of the Golf Association of Philadelphia's Volunteer of the Year Award, gave his colleagues nearly 20 years ago before being coerced into a round at the Eagle Lodge Country Club (now The ACE Club).

For Carr, a 10-year GAP course rating volunteer, that was his introduction into the world of golf.

"Eagle Lodge CC was a very nice place so my friends made me play," said the 24-year retired federal prosecutor from the United States Attorney's Office. "So I grabbed my father's old sticks out of the basement and that's how I got hooked."

Carr, 54, of Rose Valley, Pa., said he had no interest in the game as a kid. His family belonged to Philadelphia Cricket Club and his father played every Sunday. However, he did not pick up the sport until 1986 when his wife Stephanie Middleton went to work for insurance giant CIGNA. Her CIGNA employment came with an Eagle Lodge CC membership.

"She expressed to me she was not quite sure how to feel about the situation as she was six months pregnant," Carr said. "I'm six months pregnant and your starting to play golf." "

"Don't blame me," Carr jokingly

told his concerned wife. "You're the one who went and got a job that came with a golf course."

Carr's love of the game grew exponentially to the point where he became interested in other aspects of it.

In 1996, at his first breakfast tournament as a member of Merion GC, Carr sat next to Norm Nichols, a GAP course rater at the time. It was Nichols who introduced Carr to the idea of course rating and provided him with the application. The very next year, Carr rated his first course for the GAP.

"So it was an accident of sitting next to someone who I never met before at a breakfast tournament at Merion GC that got me [into course rating]," he said.

Make no mistake, though, Carr is very passionate of his course rating duties.

"The [USGA] Handicap System does not work unless the course rating system works and unless course rating is done properly," Carr said. "And so for anyone who thinks that the Handicap System works well, it's really a testament to the course rating system and to the people going out and doing the ratings properly. One does not exist without the other."

Mark Peterson, Executive Director of GAP, said Carr's passion for



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course rating and the sport made him the ideal choice for the inaugural award.

"For the past 10 years, Carr has personified the fever and zeal of a GAP volunteer," Peterson said. "Although it was not an easy choice given the commitment put forth by all of our volunteers, Carr's devotion to his craft made him a natural selection."

Carr, who expressed his honor and surprise on being named the GAP Volunteer of the Year, shares his time as a retiree with GAP; by serving as the Head of the Board for William Penn Charter School; teaching a fall semester law course at Widener University Law School and being an active member of The Divotees, an historic area golf club.

Junior Sportsmanship Award

Sportsmanship.

Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines the term as "conduct becoming to one participating in a sport; showing fairness and respect for one's opponent and graciousness in winning or losing."

For the Golf Association of Philadelphia, Christopher Allan, Jr. of Penn Oaks GC is a reflection of just that, and as a result, is the recipient of the inaugural Junior Sportsmanship Award.

Whether he was in contention or not, the 17-year-old Bishop Shanahan High School senior represented GAP and its Junior Program with the utmost sportsmanship.

"Throughout the season, Chris demonstrated level of class and sophistication one would come to expect from such a competitor in this great game of ours," said Mike Sharp, the Golf Association of Philadelphia's Junior Coordinator. "It's nice to see him rewarded for his respectful demeanor on and off the golf course."

In this, his eight season participating in Association tournaments, Allan knows what is expected of the com-

petitors who take part in the organization's events but this turn of events, earning the Junior Sportsmanship Award, was certainly a surprise.

"It feels great to win the award because it was totally unexpected," Allan said. "This is a great accomplishment to have before heading to college."

The native of West Chester, Pa., has not made a decision on what institute of higher education to attend next fall, although he is confident this accolade will help him at the next level.

"I think winning [the Junior Sportsmanship Award] can help me a lot with choosing a college," he said. "It shows coaches what kind of personality I have on and off the golf course. It's nice to show them that even though I might be having a bad day on the course, I'm still able to represent their university in the right fashion."

