

PLAY GOLF

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Working with the United States Golf Association, GAP established the Philadelphia Local Area Youth Golf Program (PLAY Golf) seven years ago to provide support of community efforts in expanding access to the game of golf to urban and less fortunate youth. The Program provides a wide range of golf equipment and tournament play for some 3,500 young men and women in 16 youth golf programs in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware.

The capstone of the year's Program was the 2007 PLAY Golf Championship held on June 25 at McCall G&CC. A total of 67 local young men and women took part in the seventh annual tournament.

This year, PLAY Golf again welcomed KPMG, the international network of professional firms providing audit, tax and advisory services, as a corporate sponsor of the tournament. KPMG provided 20 volunteers for the Championship and donated \$1,500 for tournament expenses and the purchase of new golf equipment for the participating programs. The PLAY Golf Program gives KPMG a new avenue in which to contribute to the local community through the game of golf; their support and participation are greatly appreciated.

Under the PLAY Golf umbrella, GAP also administers the Mary's Girls initiative, a unique golf development program for young ladies who do not have access to private clubs. Mary's Girls, which began in 2004, is named after the late Mary Ballen of Bala GC, an avid golfer and supporter of women's golf. The program provides female urban and community-based golfers with instruction and financial support to enable them to excel at the game and earn college golf scholarships. Its principal sponsors are the Ballen family and Women Golfers Give Back, an organization of leading women golfers in the Philadelphia area. In its fourth year, nine applications have been received. Grants will be reviewed and awarded before the end of the calendar year. In 2006, nine young women received a total of \$13,000 in awards from Mary's Golf.

The GAP thanks all the sponsors for their support of these programs that benefit promising golfers who might not otherwise have the opportunity to play the game.



Junior Sportsmanship Award

Bobby Arthur – Tavistock Country Club

The well-known pressures of competition and individual achievement have sometimes been known to work against the enjoyment of sport by its participants. But for Bobby Arthur, the 2007 Junior Sportsmanship Award winner, that statement could not be further from the truth.

"You just don't go out there to grind it out and live and die on every shot," said Arthur, 17, from Marlton, N.J. "You also go out there to have fun and meet people. You always want to respect everybody on the golf course."

And although the Tavistock CC member admitted to some struggles on the course early in his last season on the junior circuit, he carried that positive attitude throughout the year while advancing to the quarterfinals of the Junior Boys' Championship and accepting an invite to be on the Williamson Cup team.

"It was nice to go out there as a team and compete," he said of his Williamson Cup experience. "Everybody was rooting for each other and that's what I liked about it. We had a nice team."

Even after the team lost its first-round lead to finish



third, Arthur's team-first mentality only solidified the Association's decision to present him with the sportsmanship honor.

"Bobby Arthur's attitude on and off the course is widely considered the ethos of sport," said Mike Sharp, GAP's Junior Coordinator. "It was easy to see why he would earn the Junior Sportsmanship Award."

Arthur, who said this award came as a surprise, was pleased to be recognized by the Association with the accolade but he was still humble even after its presentation.

"There are so many good guys out there that are a joy to play a round of golf with that I didn't expect this for me," said the Cherokee High School senior. "This was definitely a surprise."

Arthur, who hopes to play on Tavistock CC's first team in the GAP Team Matches next spring, is looking forward to next season, his first away from the junior golf ranks.

"Not being a junior [golfer] next year should be different," he said, "but it's something I'm looking forward to."