

BCJGA 2024 Winter NEWSLETTER



This PGA Jr. League season was truly remarkable, setting new standards and breaking records in participation. We welcomed a record number of junior golfers who brought an incredible energy to the game, making every tournament and practice session unforgettable. From the first tee-off to the last putt, these young athletes showed immense growth, sportsmanship, and a passion for golf that inspires us all. The enthusiasm and dedication of our junior players not only made this season one of the most exciting in our history, but also laid the foundation for even more success in the future.

Looking ahead, we are thrilled to announce plans for building a new junior golf simulator and recreation room. This exciting development will provide a year-round space for our young golfers to hone their skills, rain or shine. The simulator will offer cutting-edge technology that allows players to practice their swings, perfect their techniques, and experience some of the world's most famous courses without leaving town. The youth lounge will also give our juniors a space to relax, socialize, and bond over their shared love of golf. It's not just about training better golfers; it's about creating a community where young people can grow together both on and off the course.

This expansion represents a major step toward increasing access to golf for everyone, regardless of age or experience. By investing in the future of junior golf, we are helping to create more opportunities for young players to get involved in the sport and fall in love with the game. As we look forward to 2025, we remain committed to making golf accessible to all and fostering the next generation of golf enthusiasts and champions!

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Meet Our Head Coaches



Thank you to our program founder and PGA Hall of Famer, Lynn Janson, for his commitment to coaching our youth golfers again in the 2024 season. Along with Lynn, we were blessed to also have returning coach and PGA Professional, Jock Hopkins. Over the years, their dedication to the game, and to the kids, has been unwavering, teaching invaluable lessons about not only golf but life. Big thank you to these outstanding coaches for all they do each and every year!

Their passion for mentoring and fostering young talent inspires our entire community. By sharing their expertise and love for the game, they help instill confidence, discipline, and sportsmanship in our junior players. We are so grateful for their continued leadership and the positive impact they have on every player they coach!

Meet our Graduate Coaches

'Ailana Leos, Grady Matteson, Charlie Mattice, Kiera Kemppainen, Lilli Edger, and Penn Phillips.



2024 YMCA Golf & PGA Jr. League



The 2024 season was an incredible year for the PGA Jr. League at The Legacy at Hastings! With exciting matches, focused practices, and fun social events, 52 young golfers had the chance to improve their skills, build friendships, and grow their love for the game.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to Barry County supporters and the Barry County Junior Golf Foundation for their dedication to shaping strong, healthy, and productive lives through golf. We are also deeply grateful to the amazing coaches and volunteers whose time, passion, and effort make this program such a tremendous success. Youth golf is more than a sport—it's a platform for teaching valuable lessons like perseverance, teamwork, and sportsmanship. By investing in young players, we are ensuring a vibrant future for the game while helping these athletes develop skills that will serve them both on and off the course.

Congratulations to the PGA Jr. League team, "Tripp, Tagg, and Storrs," on their 2024 Championship Season!

The 2024 YMCA Golf program at The Legacy at Hastings was our largest turnout yet! With the guidance of The Legacy's head pro Matt Townsley, Nate Jansma, and Grady Matteson, Barry County youth had the opportunity to be introduced to the game of golf. The YMCA Golf program focuses on teaching the fundamentals of golf and proper etiquette, creating a welcoming and fun environment rather than emphasizing competition like the PGA Jr. League.

The children not only learned the basics but also gained valuable life lessons in patience, respect, and sportsmanship. The joy and excitement they experienced were evident to everyone—from the coaches to anyone living within earshot of the course!

Additionally, the program served as an excellent stepping stone for young golfers who may choose to explore competitive opportunities in the future. We are excited about continuing this meaningful partnership with the YMCA and look forward to an even more incredible 2025 season!

Meet our Teams



Cedar Creek Machinist Training



Brycen F., Dominic H., Keigyn J.,
Kenzie M., Ava M., Lucas M., Flynn
O., Evelyn W., Louis W., Luke W.,
Willis W., Addington W., Pierson W.

Tripp, Tagg and Storrs, Attorneys at Law



Olive D., Keaton G., Kellen J.,
Ainslee M., Millie M., Jackson S.,
Stella S., William S., Dawson T.,
Hudson T., Tyson T., Nolan V.,
Colin V.

Hastings Hot Sticks



Leone B., Levi B., Greyson D., James
J., George M., Grant M., Graham
M., Eli N., Elyana P., Sophie P.,
Greyson R., Haven S., Mason S.

Kloosterman's Sports Tap



Landon B., Levi B., Carly D., Owen
E., Graham D., Cora E., Liam E.,
Deklan H., Graeden H., Jada M.,
Grey S., Anthony S., Davis W.

2024 Team Visit to the Meijer LPGA

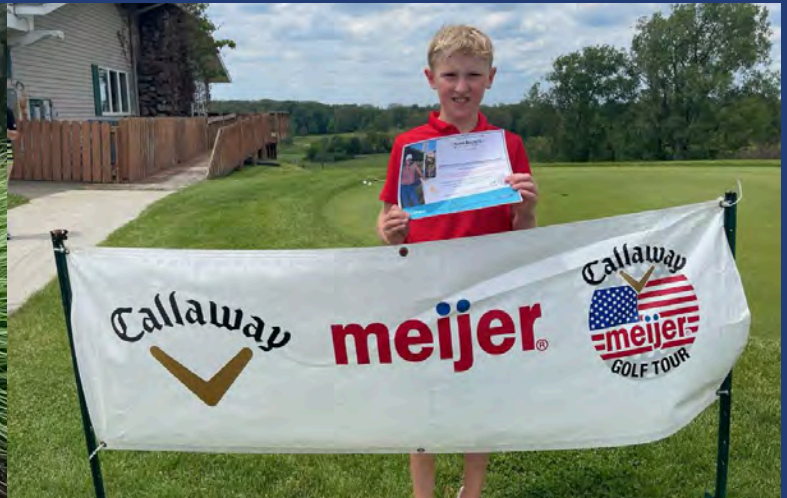


Thanks to the incredible support of our donors and generous community sponsors, we were able to offer free tickets to our junior golfers—and most of their families—for a fun-filled day at Blythefield Country Club to experience the Meijer LPGA Classic! The kids had an unforgettable time collecting autographs, snapping photos with the pros, enjoying the kids' activity area, and indulging in delicious ice cream, all while witnessing the excitement of professional golf up close.

This annual tradition provides a unique opportunity for our young golfers to be inspired by the talent, dedication, and sportsmanship of LPGA athletes. It's not just about watching the game—it's about showing them the possibilities that come with hard work and passion. Seeing these junior golfers light up with excitement and awe reminds us why this event is so impactful. Experiences like these spark dreams, foster a deeper love for the sport, and create lasting memories. We are incredibly grateful to our donors for making this special outing possible each year and can't wait to continue the tradition in 2025!



The Legacy hosts the local Notah Begay Qualifier



This year, for the first time, the Legacy hosted the Notah Begay Local Qualifying tournament ran by the Callaway Meijer Junior Tour. This served as a great experience for our juniors, as they were able to head out on their home track to show up and show out! We are so incredibly proud of all our BCJGA kids who participated, with a special shoutout to 'Ailana Leos (1st place) and Will Storrs (2nd place) for placing in their age divisions to move on to the Regional Qualifiers. Neither qualified to Nationals, but both gave it all they had and had tons of fun!



PGA Jr. ALL-STARS



This year, we proudly sent two All-Star Teams to compete in the PGA Jr. League Regionals at Binder Park Golf Course! While we came up just a few shots shy of advancing to the State Finals, the kids and coaches had an incredible time. The experience provided valuable lessons in competitive golf, teamwork, and sportsmanship, leaving everyone eager for the seasons ahead.

What makes this accomplishment even more exciting is that our team was one of the youngest in the field, with 15 of our 16 All-Stars eligible to return next year. With their talent, dedication, and newfound experience, we're confident they'll be a force to reckon with in the future. We are so proud of their hard work and can't wait to see what they achieve in 2025—this is only the beginning!



2024 BCJGA Fundraising



The Lynn Janson Pro-Am, our largest fundraiser of the year, was an outstanding success, and we couldn't be more excited about the incredible turnout. This year's event brought together an inspiring group of participants, all united by their passion for golf and their commitment to supporting our mission. Each player, volunteer, and supporter played a vital role in making the day truly unforgettable, and we are beyond grateful for their enthusiasm and dedication.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to our sponsors, whose remarkable generosity not only made this event possible but also helped us achieve new milestones. Their support allows us to continue our efforts to grow the game of golf and provide meaningful opportunities for youth in our community.

This year's Pro-Am didn't just raise funds—it strengthened connections, celebrated our shared love for golf, and reinforced the power of community coming together for a cause. Together, we're creating a lasting impact, and we can't wait to build on this success and make next year's event even more extraordinary!

Thank you to the Pro-Am Sponsors!



THE COLEMAN FAMILY
THE STORRS FAMILY



THE EDGER FAMILY



2024 BCJGA Alumni Spotlight



Kiera Kemppainen



Kiera wrote an amazing article for Forest Hills Central titled "The Colors of my Life: Orange and Blue" about how PGA Jr. League shaped her growing up, not only as a child, but as a graduate Coach.

This article was quickly recognized by the PGA Jr. League, who shared the article and they also personally invited Kiera on an all expenses paid trip in October to the finals in Texas!

Congratulations, we are very proud of you!



2024 BCJGA Alumni Spotlight



Trevor Hummer



From the Barry County Jr. Golf to Indiana Tech Men's Golf Team. Congratulations to Trevor Hummer!

Trevor graduated from Thornapple Kellogg (Middleville) High School in 2022. He is currently a Sophomore at an National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) school.

Trevor thanked our PGA Jr. League program for getting him started in golf. We love to see our previous players continue on to collegiate golf!



2024 BCJGA Alumni Spotlight



'Ailana Leos



From Hastings to playing with the best and the most Underrated golfers in the country! 'Ailana was invited to qualify into Steph Curry's Underrated Tour event at Notre Dame, with a comeback on the last few holes, and sinking a long putt on 18 to force a playoff,

'Ailana won the playoff and advanced into the next two days. She says it was an unforgettable experience, and she hopes to be invited onto the tour full-time next year!



'Ailana will graduate from Thornapple Kellogg (Middleville) High School this May, 2025, and has officially accepted an athletic scholarship and signed with The University of West Florida to play Women's Division II (D2) collegiate golf. Congratulations 'Ailana!

2024 BCJGA PGA Jr. League Winner



We wrapped up our PGA Jr. League season with the final round of the playoffs at The Legacy at Hastings. Afterwards, the PGA Jr. League enjoyed a cookout with an awards ceremony and was able to celebrate each player. All participants receive awards and certificates, along with a free kids meal at Kloosterman's Sports Tap Bar & Grille right in downtown Hastings!

Training Facility Construction



Our Junior Training Facility is continuing to progress, and excitement is building as we bring this vision to life! This state-of-the-art space will provide young golfers with the tools and resources they need to elevate their game while fostering a love for the sport. Stay tuned for grand opening details and celebrations coming in late Winter 2025—we can't wait to welcome our community to this incredible new facility!