

## From Northwest GC to Pebble Beach Golf Links,



### **MCG Junior Golfers star in The 2018 PGA Champions Tour Pure Insurance Championship at Pebble Beach, Impacting The First Tee**



Jake Griffin, 15, and Kayleigh Zeman, 16, participants in The First Tee, Greater DC who grew up learning golf at Northwest Golf Course, were two of the 81 First Tee teenagers selected this summer from thousands of First Tee participants across the country. Jake and Kayleigh played in the nationally televised, Pro-Am style, 3- day tournament, September 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>, paired with touring pros from the PGA Champions Tour.

Jake and Kayleigh came through MCG Junior Golf Programs at Northwest Golf Course beginning in 2009. Their participation includes Summer Jr. Camps, After-School Mini-Camps, Private Lessons, High School Preparation Camp, and several years of MCG Junior League Team Golf, and PGA Jr. League Golf, at both the 13U and 16U levels. Both Kayleigh and Jake spent several years in The First Tee of Montgomery County's programming at Northwest GC, and the last two years with The First Tee, Greater DC at Northwest GC and Needwood GC; (since the merger of the two chapters).



*Kayleigh Zeman and Jake Griffin in 2015 after their 109<sup>th</sup> hole of a one-day fundraising Golf Marathon benefitting The First Tee at Northwest, with MCG Instructor and First Tee Coach, Martin Zdravec (Left), . . . and Jake (back row, 1<sup>st</sup> on the left) playing on the first ever PGA Jr. League 13U team at Northwest in 2013 (Right).*



*(Kayleigh and Jake attend High School Golf Preparation Camp in the summer of 2016 at Northwest GC (Left) . . . and visiting with MCG Instructor and First Tee Coach, Adam Fishman (Right))*

**After the long flight to the Monterey Peninsula in California, the week began with two days of practice rounds at Pebble Beach Golf Links, and Poppy Hills. At a Tuesday evening Pairings Party Dinner at Poppy Hills GC, the 81 juniors learned who their pro partners would be. Jake drew President's Cup veteran, David Frost; who coincidentally is the uncle of two of Jake's golf teammates at Walter Johnson High School in Bethesda.**

**Kayleigh was paired with former Masters Champion, Fred Couples.**

Tournament play began on Friday, and after Jake and David Frost completed their round at Pebble Beach, they were temporarily leading the field at 7-under par! Kayleigh and Fred Couples finished their round at Poppy Hills GC at 4-under par, and tied for 19<sup>th</sup> place among the 81 Pro-Junior teams.

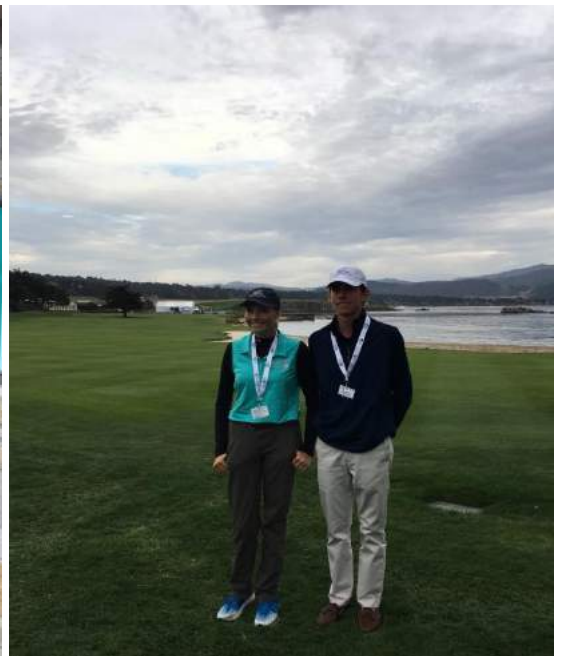


After enjoying a sponsor's dinner and live "Train" concert on the eighteenth green lawn at Pebble Beach on Friday night, an amazing, memorable event put on by tournament director Steve Johns and the Monterey Peninsula Foundation; the players got back to work on Saturday afternoon on the opposite course from their Friday round. The Saturday afternoon sun lit up the beautiful coastline, but the ocean winds made low scores hard to come by. Both players rose to the occasion with some super shots on the grandest of golf's stages. Jake chipped in for birdie on the 16<sup>th</sup>, and followed that with a 370 yard drive on the 18<sup>th</sup> hole at Poppy Hills! Kayleigh drove it well all day at Pebble Beach, and made a 15-foot putt to join Nicklaus, Watson, and others who have made memorable birdies in the national TV spotlight on hole 17.





**Only 23 of the 81 Pro-Junior teams continue play on Sunday; and both Kayleigh and Jake finished just outside the cut-line. But they can most definitely count themselves among the winners from the week at Pebble Beach; along with their parents; The First Tee, Greater DC; MCG Golf; Northwest GC; and all of you who support Junior Golf at your local MCG course.**





**Pictured here with their fellow 2018 First Tee Participants on the lawn near 18 green with the Pebble Beach Lodge in the background; both of these amazing young Montgomery County juniors, brought home memories that will last lifetimes; and have a ton to be proud of.**





*At the Pebble Beach range, Kayleigh gets advice and priceless wisdom from 3-time U.S. Open Champion, Hale Irwin.*



*Jake and Kayleigh prepare for a sunrise round at Poppy Hills, (left, above) and the cameras always love Fred Couples and Kayleigh Zeman. (right, above)*



*Selected from the many applicants nationwide on a Golf Channel broadcast earlier this summer (above); Kayleigh and Jake pose at week's end with their First Tee Coach chaperones, Martin Zadravec/Northwest GC (left) and Roger Brown/The First Tee, Greater DC chapter (right) on the 18<sup>th</sup> fairway, Pebble Beach Golf Links.*

