



Rebel Runner

Editor: Andrew Kam, Senior

Sponsored by UNLV PGA/PGM™ Student Association

Par For the Cure Celebrity Classic, a huge success for the PGM Program and the Las Vegas Community **1**

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Par For a Cure: a Success!



Check presentation at TPC Canyons clubhouse

The 2006 fall semester has drawn to a close, and looking back, it has been one of the most successful semesters for both the PGM program and student association. From tournaments to social events to successful fundraisers and community events, this program has excelled on every level and will continue to grow into the ultimate representation of excellence that its directors and students hope for.

The focus of the fall semester has been one of fundraising and giving back for PGM. Students played a pivotal role in the 2006 Par for the Cure Celebrity Classic held at TPC at the Canyons. Students participated in a "beat the pro" challenge, sold raffle tickets for a Harley Davidson motorcycle, and fore-caddied at the event.

A few notable celebrities were at the event, such as Otis Sistrunk, Super bowl lineman for the Raiders, and Notre Dame football hero, "Rudy" Ruettiger. The PGM volunteers were treated to lunch and festivities in the clubhouse after the event concluded.

Former Head Golf Professional of TPC at the Canyons and the founder of Par for the Cure, Brian Esposito, expressed his sincere gratitude for the PGM program's participation. Kyle Helms, PGM student association President, presented Par for the Cure with a \$2,500 check from student fundraising.

The PGM student association has now eclipsed the \$5000 mark in total fundraising for Par for the Cure since 2005. Par for the Cure, has raised \$290,000 for breast cancer research since 2005.

-By Jacob Oberlin & Andrew Kam

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PGA Accredited Program

President's Corner

The 2006 Fall Semester was a great success for the PGM program. Throughout the semester, our student association worked together as a team to enhance the player development program, support charitable organizations and community events, and further our reputation within the Las Vegas community. I would like to congratulate the Executive Board and all PGM students for their hard work and dedication to taking this program to the next level. I would also like to thank our Dean Dr. Mann, Dr. Busser, Christopher Cain, Chris Brown, and Barbara Hermes for their on going support and guidance to the PGM program and student association.

The PGM student association will continue to strive for excellence and promote the game of golf through being enthusiastic, motivated, and passionate in every aspect.

-Kyle Helms, Senior



PGM Students Leave Their Mark at the TPC-Member-Guest



Photo of PGM volunteers at 2006 TPC Summerlin Member-Guest

The acronyms PGM and TPC have come to stand for excellence and some of the highest levels of professionalism in the golf industry. In late October, these two organizations combined to provide a service to the members at TPC at Summerlin.

The members of the prestigious golf club expected nothing less than the best for their biggest tournament of the year, and that is exactly what they received. PGA Assistant Golf Professional Matt Oakley commented, "We received so many positive comments about their professionalism, hustle, golf knowledge and etiquette that I think we accomplished our goal of having the Members and their Guests feel like what it is like on TOUR. I was personally impressed with their courtesy to the Club, and to our staff, our Members and their Guests."

The annual TPC Member-Guest Tournament enabled PGM student volunteers to

network and gain experience while caddying for five nine-hole matches during the two day event. Some students even caddied for sports celebrities, such as baseball superstar Roger Clemens.

All in all, the experience was fun and rewarding for all who participated and volunteered. The PGM program is thankful for the opportunity to be part of this high end event and look forward to the opportunity to participate in the 2007 TPC Summerlin Member-Guest Tournament.

-By Jacob Oberlin

Students Pass Their Playing Ability Tests!

The 2006 fall semester saw seven PGM students pass the PGA playing ability test (PAT). The sites for this semester's tests, Las Vegas National and Wild Horse GC, welcomed several assistant golf professionals, aspiring amateur golfers, and more than a few PGM students from UNLV.

Deceptive greens and early morning darkness were not able to hold the likes of Kyle Heaton and Joe White in check. Heaton, a freshman in the program, rode a wave of consistent tee shots in the morning round to a solid 78 and followed it up with a brilliant 74 for a total of 152, passing on his first attempt. Joe White, a sophomore, was able to produce two good scores of 75 and 80, passing right on the number with 155.

The testy greens at Wild Horse were not able to fluster all of those that hoped low numbers were in store for their PAT rounds. Senior, Allison Lombardo, persevered in her second round to shoot a one over par 71

after an 86 in the morning round. Lombardo passed on her target score of 157.

Junior Aaron Dunaye put up low scores of 69 and 75, passing with flying colors for a total of 144. Freshman, Matt Leetsma, also shot consistent rounds of 72-73 for a total of 145. Rounding out the list of successful students were Brian Seal and Andrew Ward, each shooting the target score of 151 respectively.

Congratulations to all who passed their PAT this fall! Many students who passed were relieved and overjoyed at their success. Passing the PAT is one of the necessary steps in becoming a PGA Professional. Successful participants have earned the respect for their ability to compete under pressure.

The next PAT will be held on February 14th, 2007 at Angel Park GC, Cupid will be on hand. Best of luck to those who will compete!

- By Jacob Oberlin

PAT Qualifiers

Aaron Dunaye.....69-75-144
 Matt Leetsma.....72-73-145
 Brian Seal.....76-75-151
 Andrew Ward.....78-73-151
 Kyle Heaton.....78-74-152
 Joe White.....75-80-155
 Allison Lombardo....86-71-157

*"You must do the thing
 which you think you
 cannot do."*



Photo courtesy of Piaute Resort

Tournament Recap for Fall 2006

This semester marks the end of the best year the program has seen in tournaments. Tournament Director, Kendall Murphy, along with other members of the Executive Board succeeded in organizing a stellar tournament schedule that produced good results and excellent participation. Students were pleased at all the events, and the spirit of competition helped intensify the true meaning of tournament golf in the PGM program.

Conditions were near perfect in the month of December at Mountain Falls GC as some of the PGM program's best players teed off. Fast, undulating greens and

tricky pin placements were the course's only defense, and in the end, it was Gary Xavier who pulled out with an outright lead, shooting a 3-over par 75, two shots over Charlie Greene, who placed second with a 77.

The semester's major tournament is held traditionally at Las Vegas National GC, and once again the course proved to be in the best golfing condition for early November. There is a good reason why this event is called a major because the competition and tight scoring at the top of the leader-board showed it. Many of the big names, such as Evan Ives were favored to win the event, but it was Andrew Elliot who pulled away from the field by a stroke, shooting a 1-over 72 to win the fall major. Shortly after, there was a sudden death playoff for second place between Zack Creed, Nick Fogle, Michael Seiden,

and Kyle Heaton. Zack Creed won second place honors with a birdie on the first playoff hole. The season's final tournament will finish on December 3rd at The Falls at Lake Las Vegas.

- By Andrew Kam

Summary Tournament Results:

Mountain Falls

Gary Xavier, Sophomore	75
Charlie Greene, Freshman	77
Kyle Heaton, Freshman	79
Kyle Helms, Senior	79

Las Vegas National (Major)

Andrew Elliot, Freshman	72
Zack Creed, Sophomore	73
Nick Fogle, Sophomore	73
Kyle Heaton, Freshman	73
Michael Seiden, Sophomore	73

Match Play Down to the Final Four!

The semester is almost over, and the Match Play Championship is rounding down to the semi-finals! Every semester witnesses a Match Play Championship that progresses throughout the semester, eventually ending with a 36-hole match to determine who will be the best match play player in the UNLV PGM program.

This year features a stellar bracket with several big names, such as Western Summit participant and first-year freshman, Matt Leestma. On the

other side of the bracket, former two-time champion, Evan Ives has battled through a list of tough competitors to reach the semi-final round this semester. Matt Henderson and Jason Dobey have yet to play their quarterfinal match to determine who will face the defending champion in the semi-finals. Finally, in the last bracket, Andrew Ward, the underdog, having defeated Gary Xavier in the quarterfinals, now advances to the semifinals to face Matt Leestma.

The semi-final matches will take place during the final weeks of the semester, with the final match following immediately thereafter. A full match play bracket with a final champion for the fall 2006 will be posted in the third edition of this newsletter.

-by Andrew Kam

"Failure is only the beginning of a process that leads to success."

Sophomores and Juniors Win Softball Tourney

It was a stormy night to play softball. Not even the lights at the field were turned on! Despite the adverse conditions, students still showed up to compete in the semester's biggest social event, the 2006 Fall Softball Tournament!

Traditionally, the student association holds a softball tournament every semester among the upper and lower classmen to determine who is the best in the competitive game of softball.

This semester, it was the Sophomore and Junior Team that won the tournament outright with a score of 11 to 7. The game lasted the whole nine innings with an array of sliding, diving, and old fashioned competition in the pouring rain at Sunset Park.

Andrew Rose, Social Chair, was amazed at the participation of students despite the heavy rain and lack of lighting for the first half of the game. It is absolutely clear after this tournament that softball is here to stay in the UNLV PGM Program.



Fall 2006 Softball Tournament Participants



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How Can I Help the UNLV PGA/PGM™ Program?

The PGM program is seeking golf courses to host our monthly tournament program during the academic year. **If interested in providing an opportunity for our students to practice the competitive culture of PGA Professionals please contact us at:**

Christopher.cain@unlv.edu or phone (702) 895-2932.

We would like to especially thank the staff at Las Vegas National Golf Course, Primm Valley, Mountain Falls and The Falls at Lake Las Vegas for their support to our tournament program during the fall 2006 semester.



A PGA Accredited Program

Interested in sponsoring the Rebel Runner newsletter? Your sponsorship will help raise funds for scholarship and program funding, while providing marketable space for your organization. For information regarding the newsletter distribution list and sponsorship levels please contact Christopher Cain at (702) 895-2932.

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The PGM program will launch its research and teaching lab next spring semester. This lab will help measure the effectiveness of our Player Development program, instructional approaches, and equipment while enhancing the program's effort to recruit the best students.

The lab will give us the ability to create detailed student profiles including club head speed, ball speed, spin rate, launch angles, distance, swing plane, timing, and tempo.

The lab room also includes a club repair section with necessary equipment for minor club repair operations. **We are in need of club fitting systems to help our students understand the effect club design has on ball flight.** If your facility is interested in donating a new or used club fitting system please contact Christopher Cain at (702) 895-2932.