MSGA Scholarship Now Open to Both Boys and Girls

Emily Hulsey, MSGA Handicap and Website Coordinator

The Montana State Women’s Golf Association has been awarding scholarships for girls since 1991. With the merger of the MSGA and MSWGA, the MSGA is proud to announce that scholarships will now be available for BOTH boys and girls.

The scholarship is open to graduating seniors that have been involved with golf, but need not be presently participating. Golf skill is not a factor. Scholarship funds of up to $5,000 will be awarded per gender, for a total of up to $10,000. More than one scholarship is usually awarded.

An important requirement is that the applicant be an MSGA member (have a handicap). MSGA memberships are free for golfers under 18. If you are interested in applying for the scholarship, but do not have a handicap, we would be glad to set you up. Please contact us for details. Other requirements include being a resident of Montana and entering the freshman year at a college or university.

We encourage school counselors to make this option available to their students. Applicants can also apply directly. The scholarship application is available for download at www.msgagolf.org/msga-scholarship-application. It must be received (not sent) by March 15, 2019. Recipients will be announced after April 25, 2019.

Congratulations to our newest Ace Club Members!

Did you get a hole-in-one? Go to www.msgagolf.org to see how to get your MSGA Hole-in-One Certificate!

Ken Shaver, 9/19/18, Pine Meadows GC, Hole #6, 144 yds, 7 Iron
David Lee, 9/12/18, Meadow Lark GC, Hole #6, 195 yds, 7 Iron
Don Foulkes, 9/11/18, Whitefish Lake GC, Hole #15 N, 143 yds, 8 Iron
Jack Gauer, 9/6/18, Yegen GC, Hole #3, 150 yds, 8 Iron
Gary Doll, 9/5/18, Lake Hills GC, Hole #7, 146 yds, 8 Iron
Steve Wassersug, 9/4/18, Whitefish Lake GC, Hole #15 S, 144 yds, 7 Iron
George Cook, 6/6/17, Anaconda Hills GC, Hole #13, 149 yds, 7 Iron
George Cook, 6/6/17, Anaconda Hills GC, Hole #15, 112 yds, Sand Wedge
MHSA Announces Golf Spectator Pilot Program
Nick Dietzen, MSGA Communications Director

An ongoing conversation around the Treasure State about spectators being allowed on
golf courses during high school golf events has picked up momentum over the past year,
and now that momentum has yielded a pilot program announced by the Montana High
School Association (MHSA) to allow for new opportunities for spectators to follow
competitors on the course.

For many years, the existing rule on the books of the MHSA stated: “No spectators/fans
are allowed on the course except for certain locations as designated by the tournament manager and club professional.”

While frustration is not new for many golf fans regarding this rule, increasing frustration led to action. Several parents
used a grassroots campaign to voice their collective displeasure that led to golf fans, college coaches, and golf professionals
increasing pressure on the MHSA to revisit its policy.

This fall, the MHSA made inroads towards greater on-course access. Fans will be allowed to attend postseason tourna-
ments for the first time in decades. “We’ll try it this year,” vice president of the MHSA executive board Luke Kloker told
the Sidney Herald. “Every other state seems to be able to figure out how to make it work.” Entering this season, Montana
and New Jersey have been identified as the only states prohibiting spectators on golf courses at high school events. Last
year, more than 4,000 people added signatures to an online petition calling for the rule’s change.

The MHSA calls for a pilot program, which still has many restrictions: Spectators won't be allowed until the postseason,
they’ll be required to pay $10 to the MHSA to watch, they must have their cell phones turned off, and they have to stay at
least 40 yards from players and can provide words of encouragement, but no advice. The new policy will be instituted for
postseason play across all classifications.

The pilot program calls for the club managers/professionals and participating coaches to send feedback after each event
to the MHSA’s executive board. The MHSA will then use these evaluations to “determine the scope of the rule for the
future after the spring championships are completed,” according to notes from the MHSA’s September meeting. The pilot
program will sunset following the completion of the 2018-19 season. The MHSA executive board will then review,
analyze, and determine if it will continue.

For a complete summary of the MHSA Golf Parent and Spectator Code of Conduct that encompasses 12 guidelines that
all spectators must follow, click here.

Montana Mourns the Loss of Brian Eekhoff
Nick Dietzen, MSGA Communications Director

With heavy hearts, the MSGA is saddened by the news that Brian Eekhoff, the head PGA professional at Cottonwood
Hills Golf Club in Bozeman, has died in a single-car vehicle accident near Idaho-Montana border.

Eekhoff, 32, originally from Churchill, Montana, was revered for his jovial nature, commitment to
instruction, and positivity on the golf course. Brian graduated from Manhattan Christian. He not only
competed as a junior golfer and collegiately at Dordt College (golf and basketball), but also worked in
high school for Bill Larson at Cottonwood Hills, where he developed an interest in working in golf.
After graduation, Eekhoff and his wife, Johanna, moved to Phoenix, Arizona, where he pursued his love
for the golf industry. He worked as the assistant golf professional at Villa De Paz Golf Course and with
Cool Clubs, a world-renowned golf club fitting company. After seven years in Arizona, the Eekhoffs
decided to return to their home state of Montana and rejoin their communities in the Gallatin Valley.

Eekhoff’s warm disposition and instructional abilities were renowned with both juniors and newcomers to golf. A “gentle
giant” standing 6 feet 6 inches, he was eager to bring his passion of golf to all those he worked with. “His ability to really
communicate and take such a complex thing such as golf and put it into simple terms and simple words for kids, for
beginners, for anybody,” said Jeff Allen, PGA professional at Hilands Golf Club, “... he was able to do that quicker than
anyone I’ve seen.” ...Continued next page
The Brian Henry Eekhoff Memorial Youth Development Fund has been established at First Security Bank. The fund’s first recipient will be Brian Atika, a young boy from Kenya who was in Brian’s heart. These funds will give him the opportunity to attend a school for children with special needs. The remaining funds will continue to support youth in our community and abroad.

“He died at 32, but he actually had a lot of life experiences in those 32 years,” said Bill Larson, Cottonwood Hills’ previous head pro, who mentored Eekhoff. “He lived life large. I think that’s a good thing. He enjoyed life for sure.”

To honor Eekhoff, golfers on Bozeman’s boys and girls teams plan to wear ribbons on their hats for the rest of the season.

For the past two summers, I served as the USGA Boatwright Intern for the Montana State Golf Association. I am extremely grateful that the MSGA gave me the opportunity to help conduct tournaments, attend board meetings, and promote junior golf across the state.

My favorite tournament of each summer was the MSGA Junior State Tournament. I love the opportunities this tournament offers to our junior golfers. Juniors can qualify for several different national tournaments. If juniors qualify for the Junior Americas Cup team or the Montana-Alberta Cup team, they get to compete against players from other states and countries, without having to pay a dime. As a junior, I played in the state tournament every year, and I really enjoyed getting to help Sparkey McLean and Joe Rossman run the tournament.

I also got the opportunity to tag along on a course rating. I had no idea how much was involved in the course rating process. The MSGA course rating team was incredible, and I am impressed with the work they do!

After my internship, I feel better prepared to work in the golf industry. I currently volunteer with two different high school golf teams, I help run local summer junior tournaments, and I coach/captain the Montana Girls Junior Americas Cup team. I plan to continue working with junior golfers and giving back to the game of golf.

The American Junior Golf Association (AJGA) conducted its first tournament in Montana over Labor Day and 80 junior boys and girls competed at Big Sky Golf Course. Three countries and 18 states were represented and 12 players from Montana competed over three rounds.

Reigning Montana State Amateur champion, Ryggs Johnston, was the low finisher from Montana on the boys’ side as he posted 212 (-4) with rounds of 69-68-75. Johnston made 13 birdies and an eagle en route to tying for 5th overall. Justus Verge of Bozeman shot an even-par 216 (75-71-70) in his first AJGA event and made 10 birdies during the tournament. Verge finished T12. Verge’s twin brother Jordan cracked the top-20 with a T19 finish at 220 (69-77-74).

Dillon Stewart of Fort Collins, Colorado, was the medalist with a nine-under-par 207 (66-74-67) and claimed his second AJGA win in 2018. “I have to thank my friends and family. They push me to get better each and every day. This win was a little stressful down the stretch, but I’m proud of the way I held it together,” Stewart said.
Network Merge - Frequently Asked Questions
Emily Hulsey, MSGA Handicap and Website Coordinator

When is the merge to one network taking place?
Associations will be moved over in stages, to make the transition smoother. The USGA has scheduled the MSGA’s conversion sometime in the 1st quarter of 2019, but before April 1st. Once we are notified of the exact timeline, we will pass this on to you.

Will I have the same Network #?
Although we haven’t been given a specific answer to this question, it’s looking like all MSGA members will probably receive new network #s. They will be “mapped” to the old #s for a period of time so that your record won’t get lost in the shuffle.

What if I also have a GHIN #? Should I cancel my MSGA membership now that we’ll be on one network?
No. Even on the GHIN network, golfers have multiple records with the same network # if they are golfing regularly in multiple states. This is to support each association, because only a fraction of your membership goes toward handicapping. The majority of the proceeds help support necessary state golf operations that keep your game going, like course rating, greenskeeping support, junior golf programs, among other things, including funding that goes back to benefit your home course. And, many tournaments require an association membership in order to play. The benefit of the network merge is that you will have one network # and record at any association you belong to, which will better streamline the score posting and handicap search process. We thank you for your support!

ONE NETWORK IN 2019
Regardless of handicap vendor, all Associations will be converted to one network before April 1, 2019.

Here are the benefits:
• ONE network # - multiple states
• ONE handicap record - no linking
• Accessible by anyone in ONE place
• Centralized handicap calculation
• All handicap vendors, same network
• Invisible to golfers, no software or program change

Do you have a GHIN# or other record outside the MSGA?
If so, we need to link your records, if this hasn’t been done already! With the merge to one network in 2019, this needs to be completed soon to eliminate problems and confusion for both you and anyone searching your record.

Just email your information to support@msgagolf.org, and we’ll set you up!

AJGA ... from previous page
Six Montana girls competed, with Billings’ Carrie Carpenter (79-81-82) and Butte’s Tricia Joyce (91-79-72) tying for 22nd at 242. Cora Rosanova of Bozeman (255), Marcella Mercer of Bigfork (257), Macee Greenwood of Stevensville (272), and TJ Nordahl of Big Sky (281) placed 24-27, respectively.

Ferreira Montgomery of University Place, Washington, was the girls’ medalist after winning a sudden-death playoff that included Charlotte Hillary of Cherry Hills Village, Colorado, and Chaewon Baek of Langley, British Columbia. All three posted 219. Montgomery had a bogey-free final round in posting 67 (-5) and was thankful to win after a hard fought two-hole playoff. “This win really means a lot to me. It took a lot of patience and hard work but I’m finally here and I’m very proud to have won this tournament,” Montgomery said. Full results from the tournament can be found here.

Watch Out For Bears!

Bear seen on Buffalo Hill GC in Kalispell  Bears seen on Red Lodge GC in Red Lodge  Young grizzly on Pondera GC in Conrad, later tracked to a nearby residence, darted, and was relocated.

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**Collegiate Roundup**  
**Nick Dietzen, MSGA Communications Director**

**Frontier Conference – Men**

**Montana Tech Invitational**

The NAIA 2018-19 Fall Season kicked off in Butte as Montana Tech hosted six teams at their annual invitational at Butte Country Club. Rocky Mountain College continued their recent dominance on the men's side as the Battlin' Bears finished their three round team score 24 shots ahead of second place Carroll College. Rocky posted team scores of 286-289-279 for a total of 854 (+14). Rocky had five players finish within the top ten including the top three spots individually.

HoTae Kim was even-par for the tournament as he closed with a three-under-par 67 after initial rounds of 72-71. Kim's total of 210 edged out teammate Michael Tait who shot 71-71-69 for a 211 total (+1). Mitchell Thiessen also of Rocky was two shots off the pace at 212 (71-72-69) in third overall. Chase Marquette of Carroll was tied for fourth at 214 (+4) after posting rounds of 74-69-71. Travis Hansen of Lewis-Clark State (LCSC) opened with the tournament's low round of 66 and followed with 71 and 77 for his 214 total. Sean Benson was the low scorer for Montana Tech with a 218 total, good for T8. Jonny Cielak was T10 and low finisher for Providence at 221 and MSU-Northern was led by Devin Bray at 222 and a tie for 12th. Full Results can be found [here](#).  

**Providence Invitational**

The Rocky Mountain men's team continued their winning ways as they posted a team score of 872 (+8) at the Argo Invitational at Meadow Lark Country Club in Great Falls. Montana Tech (891) was 19 shots behind in second place, followed by LCSC in third at 895. Travis Hansen of LCSC garnered medalist honors thanks to round of 73-65-73 and a 211 total (-5). Sean Benson was three shots behind Hansen and finished second for Montana Tech with a 214 total (72-72-70). The trio of Michael Tait (215), Colton Murphy (216), and Reece Nilsen (218) of Rocky claimed spots 3-5. Jonny Cielak was the low finisher for host Providence with a 221 total and sixth overall. Stephen Santora of Carroll College was T7 at 223 with Mitchell Thiessen of Rocky. Devin Bray led the way for MSU-Northern finishing T23 at 236. Full Results can be found [here](#).

**Frontier Conference – Women**

**Montana Tech Invitational**

Rocky's Battlin' Bears women's team started their season off in fine fashion at the Montana Tech Invitational as they won by 12 shots (628) over second place LCSC (640). Rocky placed four players in the top five including medalist Hayden Flohr who shot a pair of 76's for a 152 total, four clear of Marissa Louder (74-82, 156) of LCSC. Eryn Ellis posted 157 for third, Kaelyn Volk shot 158 in fourth, and Morgan O'Neil was at 159 to round out the top five for the Bears. MSU-Northern's Jenna Jensen posted 165 to tie for 11th leading the way for the Lights. Cailin Spencer and Caroline Hobson, both of Carroll, were tied at 167 for 13th to lead the way for the Saints. Providence's low finisher was McCall Enott at 171 (T17). Kelsey Parker shot 174 and T20 for Montana Tech as their low scorer. Full Results can be found [here](#).

**Providence Invitational**

Rocky Mountain College picked up a second victory of the season, just like their male counterparts, at the Providence Invitational, this time 20 shots ahead of second place LCSC. Eryn Ellis was victorious with rounds of 75-77, 152, for Rocky and the Marissa Louder picked up her second runner-up showing of the young season with 78-76, 154, for the Warriors. Anna DeMars of Rocky was third at 155 followed by Casey Babinecz of Providence at 158 in fourth. Madilyn Brown of LCSC and Morgan O'Neil of Rocky tied for fifth at 159. Jenna Jensen was 10th at 163 for MSU-Northern and Cailin Spencer was the low Carroll scorer at 170 (T14). Tanna Campbell of Montana Tech posted 175 for 18th to lead the Orediggers. Full Results can be found [here](#).

**Big Sky Conference**

While the Frontier Conference was competing in Butte, just down the road in Anaconda the Battle at Old Works was waged with NCAA Division I teams competing. Montana State was third with a team total of 932 and the University of Montana was seventh at 949 out of eight teams competing. Eastern Washington and North Dakota State tied for the team championship and EWU’s Alexa Clark was the medalist with a 219 score (+3), posting 75-71-73 for...Continued next page
the Eagles. Coral Schulz posted 231 (77-78-76) to lead the way for MSU, finishing T10 for the Bobcats. Delaney Elliott of MSU (80-81-72) and UM’s Kylie Esh (78-79-76) tied for 13th at 233. The Bobcats had four players break 80 in the final round as their fall season kicked off in Anaconda. MSU competes in four tournaments before winter. UM also is competing in four tournaments this fall. Results from The Battle at Old Works can be found here.

Both Montana squads traveled west to Coeur d’Alene, Idaho, for the Challenge at The CDA Resort (Coeur d’Alene Golf Course). The Challenge featured four teams from the region and the Bobcats finished second with the Grizzlies in third. Eastern Washington posted 593 and had a pair of teammates, Alexa Clark and Kirsten Ishikawa, post 147 (+3), to tie for medalist honors to lead the way for the Eagles. Kelly Hooper of MSU tied for third with 149 (73-76) leading the way for the Bobcats. Not far off the pace were Clare Dittemore and Coral Schulz of MSU with 152 in a tie for fifth with the low UM finisher, Allison Sobol. Kylie Esh of UM made the top-10, finishing T9 at 153. Results from the Challenge can be found here.

MSU-Billings

MSU-Billings hosted the Yellowjacket Fall Invitational, and MSU-B finished third at Lake Hills out of five teams. Concordia of Oregon posted 856 to win and the Yellowjackets shot 882 as a team. Leading the way for the Yellowjackets were Garrett Woodin (71-72-72, 215) and Caleb Trost (74-70-71, 215), who tied for fourth overall. Payton Stott shot 220 to finish T9 and Jayd Dion was T21 at 232 to round out scoring for the men’s team. For men’s results, click here. On the women’s side, Concordia won and the Yellowjackets were second at 643, 22 shots off the pace set by Concordia. Tierney Messmer shot 79-78, 157, to tie for third overall, followed by Shealyn Hafer at 158 for 6th. Next, was Kinsey Irvin at 161 who tied for 7th. Renea Heisler was 12th at 168 and Sarah Schroefel was T18 with 173. For women’s results, click here.

A busy September for the men continued at the Saint Martin’s Invitational in DuPont, Washington, at The Home Course. With 18 teams competing, MSU-B placed 16th with a team total of 924. Leading the way for the Yellowjackets was Garrett Woodin who shot 228 and finished in a tie for 48th. Next was Payton Stott T55 with 229. Caleb Trost and Riley Kaercher posted 235 to tie for 78th and Logan Martin rounded out play for MSU-B with 242 in T90. Full results could be found here. ...Continued next page
**September Tournaments**

Nick Dietzen, MSGA Communications Director

**Yellowstone County Amateur**

Colton Hudson of Huntley won the Yellowstone County Amateur at Lake Hills Golf Course. Hudson finished with a two-day total of 140 (68-72). Zach Brehm of Billings was second with a 145 (69-76). The 19-year-old Hudson is a 2017 Huntley Project graduate. He placed third at the Montana High School Association State B golf tournament in 2017, eighth in 2016, T8 in 2015, and was seventh in 2014. Hudson attends Montana State University-Billings and hopes to join the golf program next season.

**Gallatin Valley Open**

Tyler Carlson of Helena claimed the 2018 Gallatin Valley Open with rounds of 65-68, 133, to best Corey Prugh of Spokane by seven shots to win. Carlson, who works at Green Meadow Country Club and competes in numerous professional events, is a former Oregon State University golfer. Chris Goldan of Bozeman was the low amateur with rounds of 73-68, 141. Goldan was four shots better than Brady Kirkeby of Helena who shot 72-73, 145.

**Montana Open**

Scott Foster of Anthem, Arizona, bested Missoula native Brian Beach to win his second Montana Open golf tournament at Larchmont Golf Course. Foster, a professional, posted a blistering eight-under 64 in his second round to grab hold of the lead, then shot a two-under to finish at 202 for the 54 hole event. Foster was two strokes clear of Beach, also a professional, who won the 2015 event as an amateur. Russell Grove of Coeur d’Alene finished third at 205, while Chris Dompier of Marana, Arizona, was fourth at 206. Missoula’s Bucky Crippen was the low amateur, finishing T10 overall at 213.

**Handicapping FAQs - Playing Alone**

Emily Hulsey, MSGA Handicap and Website Coordinator

Can I post my score if I played alone?

No, but let’s first clarify what the USGA means by “playing alone”. For the score to be invalid, you must be physically alone, with literally no one else with you. This is because it doesn’t satisfy the requirement for adequate peer review.

However, if you are with another golfer, even if it’s a stranger, it counts. **And, even if you’re the only one playing, but you are being accompanied by a caddie, a marker for a tournament, and even a friend riding in the golf cart, the score counts!** The point is that you have someone there to witness the score, and they don’t even have to attest the scorecard.