

2020 CNSGA Scholarship Committee Report

For the 2020 CNSGA Scholarship year, we received applications from seven girls and ten boys. This is consistent with numbers of applications in past years. The scoring was done by our numerical scoring system and from the system all candidates were ranked. All of the candidates received high praise and strong letters of support. Basically, you are not able to rank one candidate above the other if you used volunteering, grades, and community activities. For instance, all of the candidates were members of their high school's National Honor Society. All of them have earned a 3.6 GPA or higher. All of them were very active in their school's activities and other sports. All of them listed community volunteer events. So, to choose one over another in these categories is impossible. So, the numerical scoring system is what sets them apart.

Girls

Danica Badura is probably one of the most gifted successful golfer we have ever had apply. Her 553 points ranks behind Daniele Lemke (2012) of Doniphan who had an unbelievable 663 accumulated points. Danica's 553 pts. scored just ahead of Morgan Theile (2017) of Kearney who scored 503 points. All of Danica's stats and accolades are very deserving through the hard work and dedication she has put into the game of golf.

Behind Danica is Addison Mitchell of Kearney with 267 points. Addison is an all-around athlete. She is gifted in the sense she has talent to do almost anything with a little practice. Ninety-five percent of her points came from invites, conference, district, and state meets. This means she played only during the season and not much outside of the season. Besides golf as one of her favorite sports, team dance and competitive dance takes up much of her time. According to her letters of support, she must be a very talented athlete.

Following Danica and Addison, Emily Gustafson with 192 points fills the top three. Emily loves golf and lives golf. She is planning on walking on to play for the Huskers. Her goal is to receive a degree in PGA Management at the University of Nebraska. I believe she is a top candidate to receive a CNSGA scholarship.

Behind these three talented athletes, we have four young ladies who play the game of golf well but not to the degree of Danica, Addison, and Emily. Kaylee Wach earned 76 pts, Lexie Sines 59 pts, Dana Dubas 49 pts, and Olivia Ostdiek with 21 points. As a past coach, I would be proud to have all of them on my team but their points earned just does not meet our scholarship standards. In past years, we have never given a scholarship to a girl under 200 points. I felt Emily to be close enough and will be an exception.

So, my thoughts are Danica Badura and Emily Gustafson receive \$1000 scholarships to the college of their choice and Addison Mitchell of Kearney receive the Ken Anderson Memorial Scholarship.

Boys

On the boys' side, Reed Malleck leads in the numerical scoring system with 280 points. Ahead of him in earning points from past winners are Noah Hofman (2016) with 452 points, and Caleb Badura (2018) with 366 points. He is among the elite golfers we have had the privilege to present a scholarship. Reed

was active in junior events, Nebraska PGA events, and National events; however, most of his points came from 2nd place Invitational finishes. Watch the papers this spring. He is a winner!

Following Reed with a total of 132 points is Griffin Hendricks of Doniphan-Trumbull. Please remember the points earned by boys is less than those earned by girls. A flaw in our system to get the scholarships out is the boys are scored on three years of competition and not four years. In looking at the last four years, Griffin may have not received any of our scholarships due to the low score he has received on the scoring guide. But, here is why we should consider him. He loves and lives golf. During his freshman year, he was at Yutan which did not have a golf program for boys nor for girls. He went to the Yutan Board of Education during his freshman year not once, not twice, not three times, but four times to change the Board's mind. Because of his efforts Yutan started a golf program his sophomore year and now supports a boys' golf program, plus it allows girls to play on the boys' team. So, Griffin only had scoring from two years of golf and not three. One year was at Yutan and his junior year was at Doniphan-Trumbull. I believe this young man will succeed in golf due to his hard work and the belief that he can achieve through endurance and perseverance. By the way, his dad Stan was the Superintendent at Yutan at that time. Upon my request and asking his dad questions, I found out that his father turned the whole Yutan decision over to the Board and to Griffin. The Board gave in to Griffin's persistence.

Following Griffin are two young men who are outstanding achievers. They are Jace Leibhart and Eli Fox. Jace is a young man from a very small town in Nebraska, Merna (Class D). Being way out there from nowhere where it is difficult to compete in golf the year around. Jace could only compete in golf during the golf season earning him 131 points. What caught my eye is Jace, after graduation, will be studying to become a Turfgrass and Landscape Specialist at the University of Nebraska. I would really like to support Jace with a scholarship but CNSGA has never given a scholarship for a boy below 137 points except Spencer Brown who just lost his mother. We gave Spencer a \$500 scholarship.

Then there is Eli who scored 123 points. I just want to tell you about him. He is a real live student! The best of the best. He takes the toughest courses, is active in nearly every high school activity and sports, and he is loved by everyone. He is the senior class president, on the Adrian Smith Advisory Council, and team captain in golf and tennis. He maintains a GPA of 4.19. Being above a 4.0 means he had a lot of success in college dual credit courses. He received the school's Heisman award, the National Bausch and Lomb Award and was on the Class C State Golf Championship team when he sunk a four-foot putt to win the team title by one stroke in an exciting finish. He has earned the Presidential Volunteer Service award and I can go on and on. Totally, totally, unbelievable. I know Eli will do just fine in college without our scholarship as he studies to become a biomedical engineer at Creighton or UNL. But these are the kind of applications I read and read and I wish we were in the scholarship business to help these young enthusiastic lovers of life. But we are not. We can only love what they do and what they become. God Bless all of these fine youth who will be the leaders of our country and take care of us, the older generation.

I propose we give Reed Malleck and Griffin Hendricks a \$1000 scholarship each to be used at a college of their choice. I really get close to some of these "kids" who I have met on paper only but we have only so much money and we have to base our decisions on, I believe, the scoring system as it will tell anyone challenging us that we have a basis on choosing Reed over Eli.