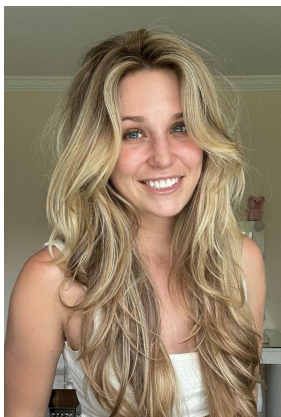


Gia Bolognese Named as PGA REACH WNY Fairway Future Trustee *Bolognese Makes Two-Year Commitment to Youth, Military, and Diverse Populations through PGA REACH WNY*



EAST AMHERST, NY (August 16, 2024) – Gia began playing golf with her grandfather at the age of seven to help battle issues she was having with OCD. At the same time, she became a participant at First Tee Western New York where she could overcome these challenges. Through First Tee, she was able to be afforded the opportunity to attend several leadership academies, became a Level 3 coach, a Junior Coach Coordinator, ACE Level Coordinator and a Girls Golf Coordinator.

All of this was made possible through the support received from the Coaches and Staff of First Tee, and women involved in sports, specifically Patty Jordan Smith and Mary Wilson. Through First Tee, she has worked with Kids Escaping Drugs, the Ralph Wilson Foundation, and the Police Athletic League. Recently, she began a new role at Orchard Park Country Club, where she is the first female Assistant Pro. My hope is each and every individual will connect with the game of golf the way she has. The game of golf gave her passion, purpose, and strength to overcome any obstacle, build confidence, and form a network of amazing people. Her goal is to

give back to the community the way others have and impact Western New York by empowering youth to understand my future brand, “Greatness is Achievable” (G.I.A.).

“I am humbled to become a part of PGA REACH WNY so I may continue my passion for advocating for youth engaged in sports through golf. My goal is to reach further into our community through outreach programs, through multiple organizations, and help bridge the gap between the children of our community and the game of golf,” said Gia.

The mission of PGA REACH WNY is to positively impact the lives of youth, military, and diverse populations through the game of golf. PGA REACH WNY was created with a goal of providing support to various organizations within the boundaries of the Western New York PGA Section. Through the game of golf, the Foundation will work to fund and conduct programs supporting its mission, including the Western New York Section PGA Junior Golf initiatives and various other underprivileged youth golf programs. The Foundation will also conduct and/or support a variety of initiatives that serve the founding pillars: youth, military, and diversity in golf.

PGA Jr. League, the flagship youth program of PGA REACH WNY, is a game-changing opportunity to bring family and friends together around fun team golf experiences. PGA HOPE (Helping Our Patriots Everywhere) introduces golf to Veterans with disabilities to enhance their physical, mental, social and emotional well-being. The PGA WORKS Fellowship aspires to be the most valuable entry-level employment opportunity for individuals from diverse backgrounds to gain experience in all facets of the golf industry.

“Our Foundation is so thrilled and grateful to have Gia join our PGA REACH WNY Foundation Trustees,” said Director of Development, John Osberg. “With Gia’s awesome experience in playing the game as a high school player, as a golf coach with several different organizations / clubs, and her amazing work with The First Tee of WNY, we knew that Gia would be an instrumental addition to helping REACH continue to grow. Gia’s desire to serve and passion and commitment to driving accessibility in the game of golf will ensure that PGA REACH WNY exceeds its mission driven expectations. This continued Board of Trustee growth further supports all of our steadfast efforts to continue positively impacting lives through the game of golf!”

About Gia Burt

Gia began golfing at seven to help battle issues she was having with OCD. At the same time, she became a participant at First Tee Western New York where she could overcome these challenges. Through First Tee, she was able to be afforded the opportunity to attend several leadership academies, became a Level 3 coach, a Junior Coach Coordinator, ACE Level Coordinator and a Girls Golf Coordinator.

Media Contacts: Abbie Kludt, PGA WORKS FELLOW WNY, 716-313-6283, akludt@pgahq.com