

From the beginning, Mike—and his staff—connected with the Sunshine Through Golf campers in a special way. “We tried to keep our approach as basic as possible but really teach on an individual basis. Some of our campers comprehend more, some can do more, but being consistent is the most important thing. It’s just like working with any other student; you can see it in their eyes when they get it. You almost come to tears—it’s incredibly moving.”

Cal, who has observed Mike in action, declares, “Mike is in love with these kids and they are in love with him. He and his staff are all wonderful teachers to this group. As a membership, we allow it to happen, but Mike and his staff are the driving force behind the whole success of the program.”

“I wish everyone could see the interaction Mike has with our golfers,” echoes Ann. “Mike is huge, and to see such a big guy showing such love just melts your heart. We have had Mike and all his assistants, on their day off, working with our golfers. The majority of my athletes’ parents are golfers, and they understand the magnitude of this generosity from Medinah.”



Medinah granted its athletes in the Sunshine Through Golf camp program special access during PGA Championship week.

Medinah has offered their campers more than access to a world-class golf course. Last August, Sunshine Through Golf campers were honored guests during the PGA Championship practice rounds and returned with individual passes during the competitive rounds. Mike recalls standing at the gate talking to several Tour pros when his campers arrived. Mike laughs, “They asked me for MY autograph and didn’t even ask the Tour players!”

Because the NEDSRA group is very stable, with a core group of about 15 who return year after year, Mike has developed a rapport with these golfers. At the end of each year, Medinah members play with the campers and Mike holds a long-drive contest. “I hit a pitching wedge or whatever club the kids select for me,” Mike says. “This year my buddy Bobby hit a driver about 150 yards past me. He got hold of it and got it past the pro. What a moment that was! This great game can do so many wonderful things for any age, any ability, they can all enjoy it—that’s what’s so great about golf.”

Mike’s involvement with the Sunshine Through Golf Foundation helps put his football and golf experiences in perspective. “I think about what this great game’s done for me and what it meant as a junior golfer playing with my dad and younger brother,” says Mike. “You talk about giving back, and when I see what challenges our campers go through day in and day out—to give them any joy...it’s the most rewarding thing I’ve ever done.”

## A GREAT BIG THANK YOU

Thank you to the Sunshine Through Golf camp hosts in 2006. The following organizations, golf clubs and golf professionals administered camps for Sunshine Through Golf athletes. Over 900 participants benefited from the 60 camps conducted by the Sunshine Through Golf Foundation.

### “SUNSHINE THROUGH GOLF” 2006 CAMPS

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Aspire<br><b>Oak Brook Golf Club</b><br>Trey Van Dyke  | North Suburban SRA<br><b>Winnetka Golf Club</b><br>Cortney Miller, Jeremy Olds & staff  |
| Champaign-Urbana SRA<br><b>Stone Creek Golf Club</b><br>Mickey Finn  | North West Suburban SRA<br><b>Palantine Hills Golf Course</b><br>Dan Hotchkin   |
| Chicago Special Olympics (ELITE)<br><b>Marquette Park Golf Course</b><br>Juan Espejo                                       | North West Suburban SRA<br><b>Twin Lakes Golf Course</b><br>Cary Cavitt   |
| Chicago Special Olympics<br><b>Marquette Park Learning Center</b><br>The First Tee of Chicago                              | Oak Lawn Park District Special Recreation & South West SRA-Aisip<br><b>Midlothian Country Club</b><br>Michael Knights                 |
| Chicago Special Olympics<br><b>South Shore Learning Center</b><br>The First Tee of Chicago                                 | Oak Lawn Park District Special Recreation<br><b>Stony Creek Golf Course</b><br>Carol Rhoades  |
| Clearbrook<br><b>Mt. Prospect Golf Club</b><br>Brett Barcel  | Orland Park SRA<br><b>Silver Lake Country Club</b><br>Gregg Tengerstrom   |
| DeKalb Sycamore Association for Special Recreation<br><b>Buena Vista Golf Course</b><br>Mike Gibson                        | River Valley SRA<br><b>Aspen Ridge</b><br>Dieter Jaehn, Jr.   |
| Fox Valley SRA<br><b>Phillips Park Golf Course</b><br>Jeff Schmidt   | Rockford Park District<br><b>Ingersoll Golf Club</b><br>Lloyd McWilliams  |
| Gateway SRA<br><b>Flagg Creek Golf Course</b><br>Bill Rosinia  | School District 54 Special Olympics<br><b>Fox Run Golf Links-Driving Range</b><br>N/A   |
| Great Lakes Adaptive Sports Association<br><b>Deerpath Golf Club</b><br>James Bukovec                                      | South East Association for Special Parks & Recreation<br><b>Village Greens of Woodridge</b><br>Brandon Evans & staff                  |
| Gwendolyn Brooks College Prep. Special Ed.<br><b>Gwendolyn Brooks Campus</b><br>Louise Davis, Cog Hill Golf & Country Club | South Suburban SRA<br><b>Coyote Run Golf Course</b><br>Brian Smith  |
| Heart of Illinois SRA<br><b>Kellogg Golf Course</b><br>Kyle Meger  | Special Recreation Services of Northern Lake County-Zion<br><b>Thunderhawk Golf Club/Shepherd’s Crook Golf Course</b><br>Jana Brinton |
| Hope D. Wall School<br><b>The First Tee of Aurora-Phillips Park Golf Course</b><br>Kelly King/Todd Wilson                  | SRA of Central Lake County<br><b>Libertyville Golf Learning Center</b><br>Jeff Mory, Conway Farms Golf Club                           |
| Indiana Special Olympics<br><b>Creskide Golf &amp; Training Center</b><br>Nancy Bender                                     | Tri-County SRA<br><b>Cog Hill Golf &amp; Country Club</b><br>Jeff Rimsnider   |
| Lincolnway SRA & Joliet-Bolingbrook SRA<br><b>Sanctuary Golf Course</b><br>Bob Shulz & Kyle Morris                         | Warren SRA<br><b>Libertyville Golf Learning Center</b><br>Ron Klein, CORE Golf  |
| Lincoln Way SRA & South Suburban SRA<br><b>Prestwick Country Club</b><br>Brandon Adair                                     | Western DuPage SRA<br><b>Cantigny Golf</b><br>Mike Jones  |
| Little City Foundation<br><b>Inverness Golf Club</b><br>Rich Lorenz  | Western DuPage SRA<br><b>Glen Oak Country Club</b><br>Danny Mulhearn  |
| Maine-Niles Association of Special Recreation<br><b>Golf Center Des Plaines</b><br>Andy Brent, GolfTec                     | Western DuPage SRA<br><b>White Eagle Golf Club</b><br>Brian Soczka  |
| Northern Illinois SRA<br><b>The Highlands of Elgin Golf Club</b><br>Mike Lehman  | Western Suburban SRA<br><b>Three-Hole Sunshine Course</b><br>Louise Davis, Cog Hill Golf & Country Club                               |
| Northern Illinois SRA<br><b>Makray Memorial Golf Club</b><br>Don Habjan  | Western Suburban SRA<br><b>White Pines Golf Club</b><br>Chuck Lynch   |
| Northern Illinois SRA<br><b>Randall Oaks Golf Club</b><br>Frank Chieppa  |   |
| North East DuPage SRA<br><b>Medinah Country Club</b><br>Mike Scully  |   |

# RAYS OF HOPE

News, Recognition and Inspiration from the Sunshine Through Golf Foundation

Sunshine Through Golf Foundation

Vol. 3, No. 2, November 2006

## Play With A Pro Day

Bright colors and big smiles were all over the Three-Hole Sunshine Course in Lemont during the annual Play With A Pro Day.

Sunshine Through Golf campers could be found wearing sharp blue polo shirts and grinning ear-to-ear walking alongside PGA Tour professionals.

The group of mentally and physically disabled players took the tee with professional golfers who had taken time off from their preparation

for the 2006 Cialis Western Open across the street at Cog Hill to play a round with them on a beautiful Fourth of July afternoon.



Chris Couch with campers

Among the pros were Chris Couch, Jason Dufner, Mark Hensby, Mike Small, D.A. Points, Billy Rosinia and Mark Wilson.

“It’s such a great opportunity,” said Bonnie Anderson, whose son Gary, 40, was playing in a group that included Mike Small, golf coach at the University of Illinois. “I can’t believe the Sunshine Through Golf

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## TENDING THE FLAGSTICK

### Professional Profile

By Cathy Miles Ralston



All smiles: Medinah’s Mike Scully with Sunshine Through Golf camper Ray Strzewski.

“It’s about doing what’s right and what’s best and trying to help people.”

That’s how Mike Scully, head PGA professional at Medinah, describes his club’s involvement with the Sunshine Through Golf Foundation. “Medinah’s affiliation far exceeds financial sponsorship and moral support,” notes Cal Koeppel, a past president of Medinah, “A lot of clubs

in the District are helping. We’re doing it a little more personally, and I like our approach.”

In April 2007, for the fourth consecutive spring, Medinah and Mike will welcome Sunshine Through Golf campers from Northeast DuPage Special Recreation Association (NEDSRA) to the hallowed, historic grounds. And those campers who range in age from eight to 54, who face a variety of physical and mental challenges—will enjoy the same hospitality and respect accorded to Tiger Woods who prowled the fairways last August during the PGA Championship.

Ann Roytek, who coaches NEDSRA’s golfers, remembers her first encounter with Cal. He approached her at the Addison golf dome one winter during a team practice. “Mr. Koeppel was very impressed with our golfers’ skills and told me he’d love them come play at his course,” Ann recalls. “When I asked him ‘where’ and he said Medinah, my jaw just dropped.”

Cal rallied support for the cause among Medinah’s decision-makers just as the club was hiring a new pro: Mike Scully, an alum of the University of Illinois’ 1984 Rose Bowl squad and NFL player for the Kansas City Chiefs and Washington Redskins, whose career in golf was nurtured by his father in the northwest suburbs of Chicago. Mike was not only open to hosting a Sunshine Through Golf camp, “he was adamantly in favor of it,” says Cal.



“They’re part of Medinah,” Mike says of his campers. “It’s become home to them.”

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## Frankland and Friends

Longtime Sunshine Through Golf Foundation supporter and CDGA officer, Keith Frankland has retired from Village Greens of Woodridge in Woodridge, Ill. Frankland celebrated his retirement with the Foundation.

A retirement outing was held in Frankland's honor on Friday, June 2. In lieu of green fees, each player made a \$50.00 donation to the Sunshine Through Golf Foundation. More than 60 golfers participated in the event.



Keith Frankland (middle) with SEASPAR/Village Greens of Woodridge campers.

Twice-annually, a Sunshine Through Golf camp for special needs golfers has been conducted at Village Greens of Woodridge. The Sunshine Through Golf Foundation thanks Keith Frankland and wishes him all the best in retirement.

## Privileged Players

The Sunshine Through Golf Foundation is lucky to have a partnership with Fortune Brands, the consumer products company behind the Titleist, FootJoy and Cobra golf brands.



As part of the relationship, Fortune Brands supports the Foundation by providing access to the Three-Hole Sunshine Course at Midwest Golf House in Lemont, Ill., transportation to the Sunshine Course for those who would not otherwise have the opportunity to play the course and sleeves of golf balls for all the Sunshine Through Golf campers.

This year, the Sunshine Course received the most play it has had to date. Thanks to Fortune Brands the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, Pace Schools and other organizations dedicated to using golf in an educational, therapeutic, recreational or rehabilitative manner were able to play the Sunshine Course.

The Sunshine Through Golf Foundation and over 900 participants in the Sunshine Through Golf camp program appreciate the generosity of Fortune Brands. Their support to those with special needs in the community is world-class.

## SUNSHINE CLUB

The following Chicago District Golf Association member clubs support the Association's charitable arm, the Sunshine Through Golf Foundation through the Sunshine Club program. Members from the golf clubs in the Sunshine Club contribute \$25 each toward the Sunshine Through Golf Foundation's initiatives.

- |                                  |                             |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Aurora Country Club              | Glen View Club              |
| Beverly Country Club             | Hillcrest Country Club      |
| Biltmore Country Club            | Hinsdale Golf Club          |
| Bob O'Link Golf Club             | Inverness Golf Club         |
| Bryn Mawr Country Club           | Ivanhoe Club                |
| Butler National Golf Club        | Kankakee Country Club       |
| Butterfield Country Club         | Knollwood Club              |
| Calumet Country Club             | Lake Geneva Country Club    |
| Chicago Golf Club                | Medinah Country Club        |
| Conway Farms Golf Club           | Midlothian Country Club     |
| Cress Creek Country Club         | Naperville Country Club     |
| Crystal Lake Country Club        | North Shore Country Club    |
| Crystal Tree Golf & Country Club | Old Elm Club                |
| Edgewood Valley Country Club     | Olympia Fields Country Club |
| Evanston Golf Club               | Ouilmette Golf Club         |
| Geneva Golf Club                 | Park Ridge Country Club     |
| Glen Flora Country Club          | Ridge Country Club          |
| Glen Oak Country Club            | Ridgemoor Country Club      |

- |                            |                           |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Riverside Golf Club        | Stonebridge Country Club  |
| Rockford Country Club      | Turnberry Country Club    |
| Rolling Green Country Club | Westmoreland Country Club |
| Ruth Lake Country Club     | White Eagle Golf Club     |
| St. Charles Country Club   | Woodstock Country Club    |



Inverness Country Club camp

For more information on the Sunshine Club, contact Brittany Ottolini with the Foundation at 630-685-2313 or bottolini@cdga.org.

Play With A Pro Day continued from page 1

Foundation actually built this course for these kids. I don't think anyone really understands how much this means to them; to get out here with all these people."

The fully handicap-accessible course provides play to the Sunshine Through Golf Foundation and other affiliated groups. The groups playing the course are dedicated to utilizing golf in an educational, therapeutic, recreational and rehabilitative manner.

The Sunshine Through Golf campers weren't the only ones having fun. The professionals were enjoying it just as much as their playing partners.

"I did this last year and it's unbelievable to see how much fun these kids have," said Couch. "It's a different perspective. Sometimes as professionals we take this game too seriously. This is something where we can give back a little bit and have some fun with some really great guys and girls."

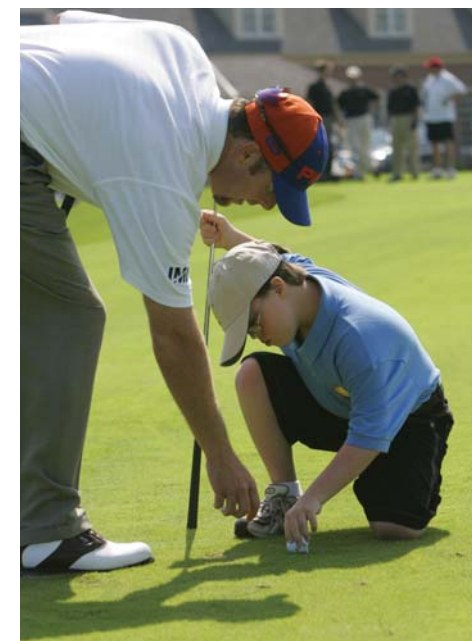
Plopped down in a lawn chair on the second tee, Bonnie Anderson could only shake her head at the notion that she was even watching her son Gary making his way around the golf course with such aplomb.

"Gary's an MDA, a mentally disabled adult," she said. "I used to say 'you're dreaming if you ever thought Gary would learn to ride a bike or tie his own shoes,' and to actually see him out here hitting golf balls is amazing."



(Left to right) Gary Anderson, Michael Fioravanti and Jeff Malanoski (far right) play with Mark Wilson.

Gary participates in the Sunshine Through Golf camp program. He's one of over 900 campers. The Sunshine Through



D.A. Points helps Andrew Copp tee-up his ball.

Golf camp program is the largest grass-roots program for individuals with disabilities in the country.

With the help of a read by Small, Gary just missed making a spectacular putt on the final hole to cap off his round. If the putt had dropped, Gary wouldn't have been the least bit surprised.

"Putting is the easiest part; I'm pretty good at it," Gary said.

Okay, if putting is the easiest, then what's the hardest part of golf?

"Hitting it out of the water hazard," he said with a smile. "That's pretty hard."

"This is awesome," Small said after the round. "It brings a lot of happiness to me to see this, I tell you what. I love these kids. I love seeing the kids having fun and I really enjoy seeing the love between the parents and the kids."

And that love, combined with the pure joy on the faces of the participants, is what brings the professionals back to the Sunshine Course year after year.

"I'll probably do this every year I can," Couch said. "As a professional, we're always so serious about the game—practicing, practicing, practicing. It's good to get away and have some fun."

"The challenges they have in their lives, the smiles you see on their faces...it's awesome."

## SPECIAL OLYMPICS ILLINOIS



Special Olympics Illinois

The following Sunshine Through Golf campers participated in the Special Olympics Illinois – State Summer Games. Through Sunshine Through Golf camps these athletes received instruction that excelled them to the golf competitions in the State Summer Games.

- |                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Gary Anderson      | Matt Knauff        |
| Tom Angelos        | Sarah Komperda     |
| Tony Balcarcel     | Lynn Kosinski      |
| Tim Bodner         | Paul Kozora        |
| Robert Borgula     | Juan Lopez         |
| Tony Borsellino    | Brooke Lowder      |
| Tyler Brinkman     | Tim Mabbott        |
| Leslie Bubeck      | Kathy Maloney      |
| Daniel Burmeister  | Charles McDaniels  |
| Justin Burmeister  | John Meyer         |
| John Calzaretta    | Karen Mientus      |
| Sylvia Collazo     | Tim Monahan        |
| Jeff Conrad        | Danny Orlando      |
| Mike Costello      | Martin Ortiz       |
| David Dart         | Justin Othick      |
| Troy DeBoer        | Corey Paskvan      |
| Edwin Delgado      | Lisa Penkas        |
| Michael Delhingaro | Mark Phillips      |
| Alex Dmytrenko     | Eric Pieper        |
| Susie Doyens       | Noelle Pluto       |
| Chad Fabian        | Kelly Powers       |
| Karen Feller       | Tammie Ranzen      |
| Nathan Ferris      | Tim Regan          |
| Michael Fioravanti | Terry Regan        |
| Kelly Fitzgerald   | James Rinchiuso    |
| John Garcia        | Adam Romanoff      |
| Tory Geraci        | Jessica Rosenbohm  |
| James Gottlick     | Sara Ross          |
| Lara Hahn          | Jim Schroeder      |
| Paul Hansen        | Jacob Shimanek     |
| Ryan Harris        | Katelyn Sicinski   |
| John Harvey        | Colin Staffeldt    |
| Sean Hatch         | Mike Swieszcz      |
| Alex Hughes        | Jeremy Thornton    |
| Sean Hurley        | Sam Westemeyer     |
| Mary Joyce         | Cassandra Wohlhart |
| Matt Klein         | Ken Zagoda         |



The 2007 Sunshine Through Golf Outing will be held on Tuesday, June 26 at Shoreacres. Contact Brittany Ottolini at 630-685-2313 or bottolini@cdga.org for more information.