



The Clubhouse Recap

Rain and wind didn't deter First Tee – Cleveland from hosting its 26th Annual Benefit at The Country Club in Pepper Pike on June 9. William Flynn's legendary layout welcomed dozens of players, all of whom champion the organization's mission to make golf accessible to all. "We don't turn any child away," First Tee – Cleveland Executive Director Pat LoPresti said. "For us to do that, we need to raise money from events like this. We have tremendous support from our Board, donors and corporate sponsors that allows us to continue to grow. They get to meet our alums and current participants and see the impact they have on the program. That's a fun part of the outing." While First Tee's national body is promoting itself on TV during professional golf tournaments, LoPresti said the local chapters, including Cleveland's, must tell their own stories. "We need to be more intentional about how we spread the word that golf is fun and for everyone."

Next on the Tee:

Pebble Beach Raffle

Tiger Woods, Jack Nicklaus and you! For \$100, you're afforded an opportunity to play at the iconic Pebble Beach Golf Links, where Woods and Nicklaus both won U.S. Opens. Limited to 500 tickets, the Pebble Beach Play & Stay Raffle prize is a three-night stay at The Lodge at Pebble Beach (with a room of the ocean) plus golf for two (with cart) at Pebble Beach and Spyglass Hill. If that's not enough, you get \$1,000 to spend on dining, shopping, spa and souvenirs.

Only 500 tickets will be sold. To enter the raffle, visit: <https://25pebble.givesmart.com>
Thanks for supporting First Tee - Cleveland!

Community Corner

After more than a decade coaching at First Tee – Cleveland, Chris Jankowski is as energized as ever. "What keeps me coming back isn't just the golf, it's seeing their development on and off the course. Regardless of their skill levels, they seem to have fun and build relationships that last. It's been very rewarding, meaningful and something I take a lot of pride in." A lover of golf and avid watcher of the PGA TOUR, he discovered First Tee by chance. "I saw ads promoting the organization and its mission. That curiosity turned into a commitment. Watching the participants grow from young beginners into confident high-schoolers, college students is satisfying." A Strongsville resident and lawyer, Jankowski is a fixture at Washington on Saturdays. He plans to play in the 100 Hole Golf Marathon for the fourth time this month.



Where Are They Now?



Golf wasn't a sport Antonio Jofferion had interest in at a young age. But the Lyndhurst native quickly changed his mind when First Tee – Cleveland hosted a clinic, led by Associate Director Brian McFarland, during his fourth-grade year. "I turned my nose up at the beginning. By the end of day, I was loving it." Jofferion joined the program that summer. Fast forward, he plays golf at Livingstone College after graduating from Brush in 2019 and now interns for the organization as a coach. "I wasn't sure if it was something I wanted to do, but I'm enjoying all aspects of it. I'm always looking to improve. I get anxious sometimes, but I've gained a lot of confidence. I'm getting into the groove, and I'm more comfortable in my position."

Antonio is a great Ambassador of our chapter. He was recently interviewed by FOX 8 Cleveland for a feature story on First Tee - Cleveland.

STAY CONNECTED, STAY INFORMED, AND KEEP SWINGING!

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