

Past Inductees into the Edmond Junior Golf Hall of Fame

Inductees - 1995

Heather Bowie
Chris Edgmon
Danny Edwards
David Edwards
Kim McFarlin
Robin Orendorff
Tami Proctor
Dustin York

Inductees - 1996

Robert Boisvert
Kay Force
William Moore
Clayton Niemeyer
Katie O'Niell
David Seaton
Teddy Smith
Jay Tewell

Inductees - 1997

Abe Cornish
Jay DeGeare
Chris James
Mitzi Taylor
Jeff White

Inductees - 1999

Macrae Bruner
Derek Freeman
Travis Hancuff
Erin Holloman
Tiffany Gribble Smith

Inductees - 2001

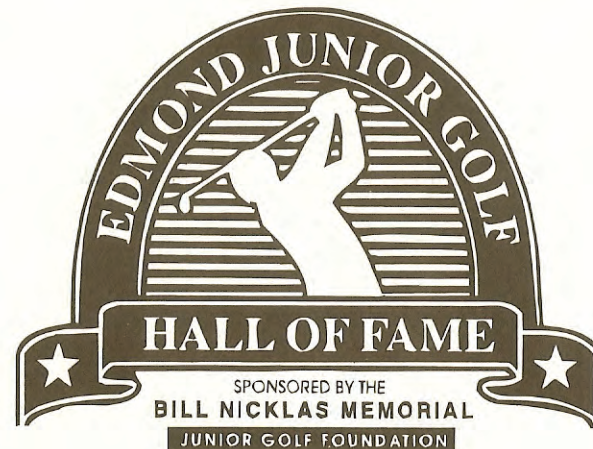
Adam Cox
Tosh Hays
Craig McClain
Jeff Oakes
Jennifer Ward

Bill Nicklas

Award Honorees

1996 - Art Proctor
1999 - Bill Payne

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www.EdmondJuniorGolf.org



6th Annual Induction Ceremonies EDMOND JUNIOR GOLF HALL OF FAME

December 13, 2003

PakTree
Country Club

6:30 p.m.

Souvenir Program

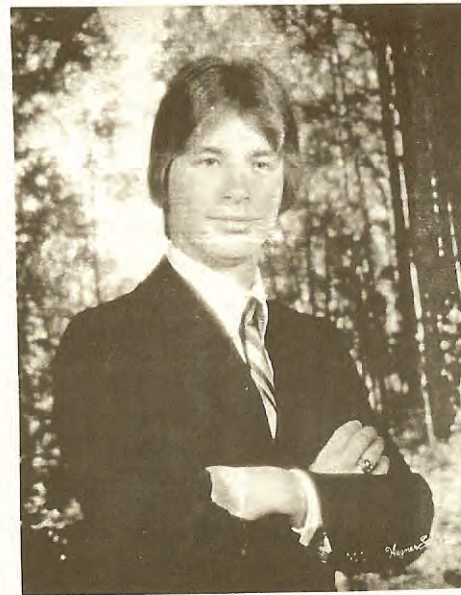
6th Annual
 Induction Ceremonies
**Edmond Junior Golf
 Hall of Fame**
 December 13, 2003

Program

6:15-6:30.....	Guests Arrive
6:30-7:00.....	Dinner Served
7:00-7:15.....	Opening Remarks Craig Benjamin Special Introductions
7:15-7:30.....	Master of Ceremonies Mike Dela Garza
7:30-7:45.....	Introduction of 1993 State Champions Slide Show
7:45-9:30.....	Introduction of 2003 Inductees Bob Wabaunsee Wendy Martin Kirk Fryer Jennifer James Kyle Willmann Mike McGraw Bill Nicklas Award
9:30.....	Closing Remarks Mike Dela Garza

Master of Ceremonies - Mike Dela Garza

Long-time Memorial basketball coach, who led the Bulldogs to the 1993 Class 5-A Championship...Served as first-ever girls golf coach at Memorial from 1978-83...His Second stint as head coach began in 1995 His Lady Bulldogs finished as the state runner-up in 2000, 2001 and 2003....Now serves as Athletic Coordinator for Memorial as well as Girls Golf Coach.



Bob Wabaunsee
 Class of 1982, Edmond Memorial

Bob Wabaunsee wasn't sure what to expect when his family moved from Ft. Smith, Arkansas to Edmond shortly before his eighth grade year. "There was one thing for sure, Bob Wabaunsee wasn't sure what to expect when his family moved from Ft. Smith, kids in Edmond took golf a lot more seriously and so many of them played competitively," said Wabaunsee, who had played golf since he was seven years old. "Most kids I knew in Arkansas couldn't have afforded a set of clubs."

"I had played a lot of football and baseball when I was young, but when I got to Edmond I decided that golf was where I had the best future," he said. "And besides, I knew you could play golf a lot longer."

Bob didn't take long to make golfing friends in Edmond. "I met Steve Steele when we first moved. I think my mom took Steve and I back and forth to Kickingbird a couple hundred times," said Bob, who played for the junior high golf team for two years before joining the Memorial Bulldogs as a sophomore.

"Probably my biggest influence early on was Chris Caplinger. I always tried to emulate him and figure out what he was doing. He was a great competitor and a really nice guy. A lot of us looked up to him," said Wabaunsee, referring to Caplinger, who was a 1981 EMHS graduate.

Whatever Bob observed while watching Caplinger, it must have worked, as he started quite fast as a sophomore. That season he was fifth in the Metro Sectional and third in the Edmond Invitational, Metro Divisional and Yukon Invitational. As a junior, Bob added five more top ten finishes, including runner up finishes in the Stillwater and Red Carpet Invitational. His most memorable moment in junior golf came when he and his teammates brought home Edmond's first ever State Championship at Ponca City Country Club. "That was the highlight of my career at Edmond," said Wabaunsee. "We had such a good team and it was really fun to be a part of that championship." His teammates included Steele, Caplinger, Clayton Niemeyer and Scott Schaeffer.

During his senior year he led Memorial with a 77.4 stroke average and collected two very important titles, the Mid State Conference and the Regional. Overall, he had seven top ten finishes. Despite his impressive play all season long, Wabaunsee was disappointed with his play in the State Meet at The University Course in Norman.

"I really should have played better," said Bob, who shot 79-76-84-239 to place 11th individually. "That was a heart breaking loss for all of us", he remembered. Enid upset the Bulldogs by a narrow margin.

As a junior golfer he collected various titles, the most prestigious being the Arkansas Junior Masters in 1978, after moving to Edmond.

Bob currently lives in Bella Vista, Arkansas with his wife Dackory and their children Gage (13) and Lake (7).

Wendy Martin

Class of 1998, Edmond Santa Fe



When Wendy Martin became a seventh grader at Summit Middle School it didn't take her long to realize that there weren't any girls junior high golf teams in Edmond. That didn't discourage her one bit.

"I just figured that I would try out for the boys team," said Martin, who then became the first girl to qualify for and play on a boys golf team in Edmond. "When I was young I played softball, basketball, soccer and tennis. One day (age 12) I told my dad I wanted to take up golf."

Her early motivation was to beat the boys playing around The Greens Country Club. "My brother (Michael) pushed me to be better and he wouldn't let me play golf with him or his friends until I was good enough and that kept me working hard," she said. Perhaps it was that early training that made the transition of playing on a boys team easier. It is also that competitive nature that vaulted Wendy to one of the greatest careers by an Edmond female golfer ever.

Wendy captured a staggering 33 junior titles from 1992-1994, but it was her victory in the 1995 AJGA Oklahoma Junior Classic that she best remembers. "That was so big for me because I beat Stacy Rambin (Jenks) and Chrissy Register (Georgia)," she said.

Playing for Santa Fe High School, Wendy was nothing short of incredible. In four years she won well over ten events, including four consecutive Metro Conference titles, the only player to accomplish that feat. As a freshman, she won the Regional and then placed third in the Class 4-A State Meet with rounds of 75-78-153. The following year she pulled off a minor upset, winning the Class 5-A State Meet over a very talented field which included Rambin and Enid's Stacy Prammanasudh. Her scores were 71-73-144, the lowest ever for an Edmond player at State. The outcome was still in question as she approached the final hole, but after her 4-iron settled to within three feet of the hole, a closing birdie sealed the deal.

Wendy won her third straight Regional title as a junior and followed that with a tie for fifth at State with rounds of 79-74-153. She opened her senior year with a two stroke win in the Guthrie Invitational with a career-low 68. Three weeks later she bettered that with a 67 at Shawnee for an easy 10-stroke victory. She then shot 69 in the Regional Qualifier for yet another win.

Martin capped her brilliant career with a third place finish at State, despite an opening round of 84, which left her well back of the leaders. She closed with an even par 72. Wendy was named to the All-Edmond and All-OKC Metro Teams all four years and was Player of the Year on three occasions. She was also named to the All-State Team in 1998. It is safe to say that she had arguably the finest career in Edmond history. She went on to play four years at the University of Oklahoma.

What led to all of this success? Wendy points to one man "I can remember that my dad didn't let me play on the course until I was good enough to actually finish," said Wendy. "He wanted me to practice more at first and work on my skills. I think that is a big reason I played as well as I did."

Kirk Fryer

Class of 1988, Edmond Memorial



Like most boys who grow up as the son of a golf professional, Kirk Fryer got an early start in the game of golf.

"My dad got me started at six years old with my first lesson," said Kirk, whose father Larry was the head professional at Lakewood Country Club in Dallas at the time.

That first lesson sparked his interest in the game, but it was summer visits to his grandfather's house in Baytown, Texas that provided even more encouragement.

"Each summer my brother Don and I would spend at least a week with "Blue" (Bradshaw) and we would play daylight to dark every day. I think those times were what got me hooked on the game," said Kirk.

"Later, grandpa would share duties with my mom getting Don and I to tournaments all across the state. He was a big influence on our golf."

In 1981 Kirk's dad accepted the position as head professional at Quail Creek Country Club in Oklahoma City and the family settled in Edmond. It wasn't long before Kirk was making a host of friends, most all of them golfers.

By age eleven Kirk had decided to get serious about golf and began traveling to tournaments all around the state. His first out of town competition was when he met Brent Bostick and actually beat him in the Darren Hoedebeck Memorial in Duncan, Brent's hometown. The meeting would be the first of many and Bostick would become Kirk's good friend and rival for years to come.

"I was lucky enough to beat Brent that week and he and I battled for a lot of trophies through the years," said Kirk.

As a Bulldog golfer in high school, Kirk struggled for most of his first two seasons, playing sparingly in the top five, but did manage to win one event. Unfortunately, he was forced to watch from the gallery as his teammates romped to a 19-stroke win in the State Meet in his junior year. "That hurt a lot. If you are a competitor, you want to be part of the action. I was thrilled, however, that we won the team title."

Kirk regrouped for his senior year and, despite the fact that he had ten top 10 finishes, the season got off to a rather inauspicious beginning. In pre-season qualifying Kirk found himself in 13th place with only two rounds remaining and only the top ten earned a spot on the team. "I had started doubting myself and it just got worse. I even went to a sports psychologist, which was kind of unusual back then," said Kirk, who stormed back with rounds of 70-68, vaulting him to sixth position on the team for the season's first tournament. In that event he shot 75-75-150 to place third and he never looked back.

"I think my biggest victory in my junior golf career was overcoming my mental battles that spring," he said.

Despite a great performance in the State Meet at Stillwater Country Club Kirk and his teammates fell short in their bid to repeat at State Champions, losing an 11-stroke lead with nine holes to play against Bartlesville. "We were all devastated and while it wasn't the end of the world, we all felt we were still better than Bartlesville." Kirk finished as the State Runner-up individually.

Kirk played his college golf at Tulsa before transferring to UCO.



Jennifer James

Class of 1998, Edmond North

Golf is inherently an individual game, but for former Edmond junior golfer Jennifer James golf was far from an individual endeavor. "I think my entire junior golf career was a team effort," said Jennifer, who was named All-State during her senior year in high school. James took up the game at age six mainly because her older brother Christopher played. Her father Darrel was her first and only swing coach. "My dad always gave me lessons and my mom would usually reinforce what he had told me." Jennifer first competed at age nine and by age 14 she had begun to build quite a resume in tournaments on the South Central PGA Junior Tour. During the summer of 1995 she captured four titles and placed in the top ten on ten other occasions. But it was an accomplishment a year earlier that grabbed the attention of local golf fans when she qualified for the boys team at Sequoyah Middle School. "It was very nerve-racking playing against the boys, but it was good for me because of the competition," said Jennifer. Jennifer's high school career at North was a model of consistency and ranks high in the history of Edmond junior golf. As a freshman she had nine top 10 finishes, including a 7th place in the State Meet. She continued her fine play the following year, adding ten more top 10 finishes and an 8th place finish at State.

As a junior Jennifer and her Husky teammates brought home the school's first State Championship in girls golf, largely due to Jennifer's third place finish. "That first State Championship was a huge deal for us," said Jennifer.

Jennifer's senior year saw more fine play with victories in the Jenks and District events. Her second place finish helped North repeat as State Champions and capped a brilliant career in which she placed in the top 10 in all 41 of the events. She placed in the top three an incredible 22 tournaments. She was named All-Conference and All-State as a senior. She became the first Edmond player (boy or girl) to place in the top 10 at the State Meet four consecutive years. Jennifer was also named "All-Edmond Player of the Year" and "All-Metro Player of the Year" in 1997. In 1998 she shared Player of the Year honors with Wendy Martin of Santa Fe High School.

Interestingly enough, Jennifer gives most of the credit for her success to her brother Chris. "I saw what he was achieving and how wonderful it was and I wanted to do the same kinds of things," said Jennifer, who duplicated Chris' feat of being named AJGA Scholastic All-American two straight years and, like Chris was a Valedictorian at North High School. "Chris helped me with competition, both in the classroom and on the course."

Following high school, Jennifer enjoyed a four year stint with the University of Oklahoma women's golf team, where brother Chris played his college golf.



Kyle Willmann

Class of 1998, Edmond North

Kyle Willmann had played golf for over ten years, but still considered himself sort of a "recreational golfer." My dad first put a club in my hands when I was two years old. He cut off a little sand wedge for me. Maybe that's why I became a pretty good bunker player," said Kyle who also played lots of baseball and basketball until around the eighth grade. "That's when my dad told me that I needed to make a choice and pick a sport to focus on, so I chose golf," he said.

Kyle tried out for the Sequoyah Middle School team in the eighth grade, only to lose a playoff for the last spot on the team. Not discouraged, Kyle came back the following year and played a big part in Sequoyah's undefeated season in 1995. "I still what you would call a serious golfer. When I broke my arm after my sophomore year I began practicing with one arm and was actually doing pretty well," he said. "That's when I started getting serious." Later that fall, Kyle's father Kirk passed away after a battle with cancer, a very tough blow for Kyle, but something that also inspired him. "When my dad died, there was no question that I wanted to play for him. I think golf actually became my escape."

During the spring following Kirk's death, playing for North High School, Kyle won the Lawton Invitational, had six more top 10 finishes and led the team with a 75.8 scoring average. His senior year was even better, winning the Metro Conference Championship with scores of 76-65-141. The round of 65 was then a Husky record. His solid season also included ten top 10 finishes, but his biggest moment he saved for the Class 6-A State Meet at Muskogee Country Club. "I pointed to that tournament all year long," said Kyle, whose 75.1 stroke average led North for the second straight year.

After firing rounds of 73-75, Kyle was in contention, trailing Jenks' J.C. DeLeon by two strokes going into the final round. "Going into number 14 I was still one stroke behind," said Kyle, who calmly made a six foot par putt on 14th and then birdied the par five 15 hole to draw even with DeLeon. Kyle then made another nice par save on 15 from eight feet to keep the match even.

The fireworks continued on the par three 17th hole when DeLeon holed a 30 foot birdie putt, only to have Kyle make a 25 foot birdie putt of his own moments later. "On 18 I hit a bad second shot and short sided myself," said Kyle, who then hit a good recovery to within seven feet of the hole. DeLeon's 50 foot birdie putt settled just inside Willmann's coin, six feet from the hole. "I made, he missed," said Kyle, who became North's third State Champion in five years. Willmann was named All Edmond Player of the Year and All OKC Metro Player of the Year, along with being named to the All State team for 1998.

He would later place in the top three in the National Junior College Championship two straight years while playing for Tyler Junior College. At Texas Tech Kyle would win two events and help lead the Red Raiders to their first NCAA appearance in 26 years.

All of that not too bad for someone who didn't consider himself to be a "serious golfer".

Special Recognition – Great Teams From The Past

1993 Edmond Memorial Bulldogs



Motivating the 1993 Edmond Memorial Bulldog golf team wasn't a difficult task for head coach Rick Leath. His team had plenty of reasons to work hard every day, five reasons to be exact.

"I think it was pretty easy for all of our players to get motivated for that season," said Leath, whose 1993 team was gunning for an unprecedented fifth State Championship in a row. "We didn't have too many motivational speeches. Everyone knew the significance of that season."

Indeed it was a date with destiny for that team which included Jay Tewell, Jeff White, Paul Brunner, Teddy Smith, Chris James, Nathan Norris, Kurtis Ronck, Tye Cunningham, Graham Moore, Dustin Freeman and Bubba Hart. "It was a chance to do something that had never been done," said Leath.

Edmond opened the season with four consecutive wins before being upset by Norman in the Red River Invitational in Lawton. "I think we used that loss as a wake-up call," said Leath, whose Bulldogs then won their last five events by an average of 18.4 strokes per tournament. Edmond set a 36-hole school record of 569 en route to the title in the Bluejay Bash. Teddy Smith won the individual title with rounds of 66-70-136. Jay Tewell, who opened the season with three consecutive wins, captured his fourth win in the Ada Tournament of Champions with a round of 70. He followed that with a record-tying fifth win in the Mid State Conference Championship at Oakwood Country Club in Enid. It was Memorial's 15th consecutive league crown, a State record.

Sophomore Chris James shot 79-68-147 to edge Tewell for the medalist honors in the Regional, while the Bulldogs romped to an easy victory. The stage was now set for their history-making performance.

The State Meet was held at Cushing Country Club and scheduled for 36-holes on Monday and the final 18-holes on Tuesday. Unfortunately for Edmond, torrential rains forced the cancellation of the second round and after 18-holes, Memorial trailed a "freshman-heavy" Jenks Trojan team by a single stroke. Teddy Smith led the way for Memorial with a respectable 74, followed by Jay Tewell 76, Paul Brunner 77, Jeff White 77 and Chris James 78.

"We were worried because the forecast was for a lot more rain on Tuesday and if that round rained out we would finish as the runner up", said Leath. "There wouldn't have been any way to control our fate."

Although the rains continued on Tuesday, play was not suspended and Edmond charged back, every single player beating their Jenks opponent by an average of nine strokes per man. Smith and Tewell fired solid 71's, followed by Chris James' 74. Brunner added a 76 and White a 79. In the drama, Jenks fell to fourth place as Bartlesville finished runner-up to the Bulldogs, 25 strokes back. Edmond not only claimed the State Title, but was also crowned Academic State Champion with an impressive 3.73 GPA.

"I think that is one of the most impressive things about that team, the fact that they played so much good golf, but were also great students as well," Leath said.

In all, Edmond fashioned a 114-1-0 record, had two All-State performers (Tewell and White), crowned a total of eight individual champions during the year and will undoubtedly be considered among the very elite teams in State history.



Teddy Smith
5-A State Medalist

Jay Tewell, All State

Edmond Bulldogs 1993 State Champions

	Victory Margin
Ponca City Invitational.....	+7
Edmond Invitational.....	+25
Red Carpet Invitational.....	+17
Red River Shootout.....	+33
Guthrie Bluejay Bash.....	+26
Ada Tournament of Champions.....	+10
Mid State Conference.....	+30
Regional.....	+29
Class 5-A State Meet.....	+27
Academic State Champions.....	3.73 GPA

The Bill Nicklas Award

"The Bill Nicklas Award is given to honor individuals who have demonstrated a love for junior golf and who have, through their unselfish acts of kindness and long-term dedication, promoted junior golf in Edmond."



Mike McGraw began his involvement with Edmond Junior Golf in 1981 while attending UCO. After graduation, he became the Junior Golf Director at Kickingbird Golf Course at the urging of Art Proctor, head professional at the time. "Art told me that he thought I could make a difference with juniors in Edmond and I guess I took him seriously," said McGraw. He continued to run the program until he left Kickingbird in 1996. During the 1980's he assisted Bulldog coach Mark Mades with the high school golf team and continued working with Rick Leath until 1993, when he accepted the job at North High School. At North, McGraw's teams won three consecutive State Championships (1994-95-96) and he was named the Daily Oklahoman All-Metro Coach of the year on three occasions. He also wrote a junior golf column for the *Edmond Sun* which featured local junior golfers and events. He was instrumental in founding the Bill Nicklas Memorial Junior Golf Foundation in 1992 and served as the Foundation's first President from 1992-1997. He is currently the Associate Head Coach at Oklahoma State and was named the 2003 Assistant Coach of the Year in Division I college golf.

A Brief History of the *Bill Nicklas Memorial Junior Golf Foundation*

The Bill Nicklas Memorial Junior Golf Foundation serves to honor the memory of one of the greatest junior golf supporters in Edmond Junior Golf History, Mr. Bill Nicklas.

Nicklas, who passed away on March 30, 1992 was always willing to lend a helping hand to a junior golfer. He was there to offer advice, encouragement, a ride home, or whatever was needed. His love and dedication to Edmond's young golfers will long be remembered.

Since it was founded, the Foundation has sponsored The Bill Nicklas Memorial Junior Championship at Kickingbird Golf course, which annually attracts the best golfers from across the state of Oklahoma. Each Spring, several graduating seniors go to college on a Bill Nicklas Memorial Scholarship. The foundation also sponsors The Bill Nicklas Putt-off, in which local junior golfers travel to nearby senior citizens homes and conduct free putting clinics, and then participate in putting contest with residents of the home.

The foundation has also conducted free rules and etiquette classes for youngsters, not to mention providing free clubs, balls, shoes, and other equipment.

With the founding of the "EDMOND JUNIOR GOLF HALL OF FAME" the Bill Nicklas Memorial Golf Foundation continues its support of the Junior Golf Community in Edmond.

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Steve McCollum • Patty Coatney • Mike Thompson • Steve Coen • Pam McGraw