

2018 LWGA SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



Maya Williams and Eliza Jane Coulter

ESSAY

Eliza Jane Coulter

Hilton Head High School

2018 LWGA Scholarship Recipient

As a child, I had the plastic golf clubs like all the other kids. I actually used these plastic clubs to practice putting, chipping and driving with my grandpa Pop (and my dad). I went to the driving range when I was old enough to get my own real clubs. On Sundays our family dinners were strategically scheduled around watching the final rounds of various PGA golf tournaments. We occasionally watched LPGA golf tournaments but primarily I noticed it was always men playing. I remember very early on that I decided I wanted to play like a girl! In the Summer of 2015 my Pop passed away. The following summer my Dad had my Pop's clubs fitted for me and then enrolled me in the First Tee for the summer of 2016 and 2017. Two weeks after the 2017 First Tee program I met Coach Rawn Grant and told him that I was interested in playing on the golf team. He assured me that since the participation numbers were low, I would make the team. My Mom, who is a sometimes a little over confident of me, replied "No, she'll make the team because she's good!"

Although I was the 8th grader and the youngest on a high school varsity team, I chose not to be intimidated but rather inspired. I was given the opportunity to practice and learn with the Berkeley Hall Pro, Kiley Kohler. I also continued taking lessons with Nick at the First Tee. Most weekends

you can find me, my dad and occasionally my sister, practicing all aspects of golf at the range, the putting green, and in the sand traps too.

My first year on the team I had a 9-Hole scoring average of approximately 67. This past season my 9 hole scoring average at states was 52.5. I have worked very hard the past two years and I am committed to continue working hard on my game. I received my Varsity letter for Girls golf at HHIHS as an 8th grader and this year I earned a bar. In the summer of 2018, I participated in the Drive Chip and Putt competition in Sea Island, GA. My accomplishments this year include: My personal best (52), winning regions, making the all-region team, beating personal best at both days at states (108, 105), and our HHIHS golf team won 6th in the AAAA State tournament. I was overwhelmed to learn at our Fall Awards banquet that I had been chosen as our Golf team's Most Improved Player. I am so grateful to all of my coaches, my parents and the various golf professionals in Beaufort County who allow us to play and practice at their facilities. I am truly honored and truly thankful for the \$500 scholarship. It is my dream to one day be a Division I scholarship athlete.

Essay
Maya Williams
May River High School
2018 LWGA Scholarship Recipient

If you would have told me five years ago that I would be playing golf and genuinely enjoying myself while doing so, I would have laughed in your face. My introduction to the sport was unexpected to say the least, but definitely is something that I will forever be thankful for. I never thought that one day, I would be graciously accepting a scholarship for it. I am so thankful beyond words and could never say it enough.

I never imagined a future for myself in golf, but in all honesty, life truly doesn't turn out how we originally intend it to. I didn't intend to suffer a complete tear to my ACL, nor did I intend for any of the events that followed to occur. Donald Miller once said, "Fear is a manipulative emotion that tricks us into living a boring life," which couldn't have been stated any better. After my injury, I was afraid to continue living my life in the best way I should have. Golf helped me strip myself of this mentality that seemed to forever loom around me and showed me that I could try new things and set my mind to anything.

I have to give my mother credit for supporting me in everything that I have done, of course. She purchased my first set of clubs and scheduled my first lessons with Scott Simonsen, a family friend who happened to be an amazing instructor. Secondly, I am so appreciative of my coach, Kelly Minasi, who has done more than I have ever asked to help and has never let me give up. My grandfather truly deserves the most accreditation for fostering the amount of love that I have for this sport. My grandfather has played golf for over 35 years, and has spent 19 of them trying to

encourage his grandchildren to follow suit. Lee Scott's golf journey began during a time where it was a rarity for a black man to be a member of a country club, and additionally a golfer. I know that I wasn't prompted to tell my grandfather's life story and talk about his career in golf, but for him to persevere through challenges and playing, despite outside influences, is pretty admirable. I owe so much to him for everything that he has done for me and that he continues to do that I will never be able to reciprocate.

I have never had the desire to become a college athlete, and although golf made me consider it more than I had previously, I have simply decided that it is not the pathway in which I want my life to go. I will continue to play for my high school team and eventually use it as a major business tool. I know that golf will offer me bigger and better opportunities in my future that I would never be afforded given had I never been introduced to this beautiful sport.

