

Stouffville Sun-Tribune
SPORTS

LESSONS FROM THE LAWN



STAFF PHOTO/MIKE BARRETT

Rick Wall, left, tournament director with the Stouffville Lawn Bowling Club, demonstrates some of the finer points of the game to first-timers Sheila and Peter Armet of Ballantrae. The club hosted open houses recently, inviting all to learn more about the sport and consider membership with the club. If you would like to learn more or register, contact Jill McWhinnie at jillymcw@gmail.com or 905-640-2405. Registration continues this week.

**Young golfer scores
 Mother's Day prize**

BY MICHAEL HAYAKAWA
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Alex Gurdyal wanted to present his mom a nice gift for Mother's Day.

The 10-year-old Stouffville resident did just that.

He gave her a victory — his first this season — while competing in the U.S. Kids Golf Niagara Spring local tour circuit at the Bridgewater Country Club near Fort Erie.

Taking to the links on an unseasonably cold and windy day along with other competitors from Ontario and New York State, Gurdyal carded a 30 through nine holes to place first in the 10 year old age group.

"I really wanted to give my mom a Mother's Day present," he said. "I really felt confident I could do it."

Gurdyal has been remarkably consistent in his first crack at the tour.

In four prior events he's finished second to go along with a fourth-place effort in the series opener.

"I've really been working really hard in the winter to prepare for this tournament. Even though the weather was really bad for all my tournament I've played up there, I believe I played really well and am improving in every tournament," said the Grade 4 student at Glad Park Public School.

Citing golf icon Tiger Woods as being a competitor he looks up to, Gurdyal's introduction to the game began when he was four years old.

"One day my dad (Patrick) took me out to watch him hit balls and I wanted to hit some, but I didn't have a golf set," he said. "So, my father

asked my grandfather (Winston) to get me a set of golf clubs and he got me one. Once I got it I was all excited and I wanted to go to the driving range that day.

"So he took me out and I got to hit balls without missing any shots and from that day, I fell in love with the game and I'm still playing."

Having competed in various Canadian Junior Golf Association events prior to joining the U.S. Kids Golf circuit this year, Gurdyal has some long range plans already, among them to hopefully parlay his skills into earning a collegiate scholarship.

From there, he hopes to some day play at such time honoured fairways like Augusta, Pinehurst or Pebble Beach as part of the PGA Tour.



ALEX GURDYAL: Stouffville golfer, 10, hopes to receive scholarship to U.S. college.

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