



A GAMEDAY Experience

Bailey O'Donnell, Junior Course Reporter

This year, an opportunity was presented for a group of forty-five families from The First Tee of Fort Worth to walk the course with a few professional golfers playing in the 2017 Dean & Deluca Invitational.

GAMEDAY is an event that offers youth golfers the opportunity to interact with PGA Tour players. Each participant receives free admission to the tournament, follows alongside the players for nine holes of their practice round, and priceless interaction with the players. The event concludes with a time for questions and answers and collecting autographs with the PGA players and their caddies. This event is hosted by FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes) Golf, an organization that exists to grow golfers into biblically mature leaders who transform culture.

Our group was privileged with getting to know professionals Kevin Streelman, the founder of GAMEDAY, and Robert Streb.

In addition to learning about how they play their golf game and some of their golf and education backgrounds, we got to hear from them about how they succeed in life and grow in their faith through golf.

A rain delay at the start of GAMEDAY brought our event indoors.

While rain was pouring outside, the attendees of GAMEDAY were inside the Champions Club tent with our two pros, talking and getting autographs. It's always important to remember that these golfers are people too and they like to talk just as much as you do!

When the rain proved not to be letting up as soon as hoped, they started a putting tournament among the professionals and children. The winners received some neat prizes and a memory to last a lifetime.

The whole group headed outside when the rain stopped, although the course was still closed. Mr. Streelman and Mr. Streb showed the group how they practice their chipping and bunker shots. All the kids had a fun time with the trivia contest that was played based on the two professionals.

Every child left with a golf ball with a signature on it, a GAMEDAY hat, and a GAMEDAY experience booklet.

All and all, this is beneficial experience for any aged person. If you come across the chance to attend this event at another tournament or even next year, I implore you to take the opportunity. The gentleman who ran our experience, Jose Alvarez, was very informative and passionate about this program. He kept it running smoothly despite the obstacle of inclement weather.

Thanks for reading!