

## **EVERYONE'S A WINNER AT TOURNEY FOR CHALLENGED**

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**South Florida Sun – Sentinel**, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Feb 6, 2005. pg. 28

Brandon Edge, 14, finally got to play a game of golf as he had dreamed.

Thanks to a specially designed golf cart, Edge, who has cerebral palsy, was able to get on the greens and stand with a special seat that swivels and lifts up.

"If he didn't have [the cart], he wouldn't be able to play," said Allison Edge, Brandon's mother. "We have never been able to find any [sports] that would be adaptive to him. I would always say, 'Brandon, we'll find something' because he can't run."

Brandon's favorite golfer, Jack Nicklaus, and his wife, Barbara, sponsored the inaugural Golf for All Children's Golf Foundation tournament with SoloRider at Lakeview Golf Club in Delray Beach on Jan. 22.

Eighteen students participated in a variety of contests, which included a putting contest won by Tony Sapp, a nine-hole scramble/ shotgun tournament and an awards ceremony.

The event marks the launch of the Alliance For Golf Access, a partnership between the Children's Golf Foundation of West Palm Beach and the Golf and Tennis Management Co., JCD Sports Group of Delray Beach.

The Children's Golf Foundation wanted to give the kids something special -- a chance to play on a real golf course.

"The mission of the foundation is specifically to teach golf to mentally and physically challenged children," said Keith Stuhler, CEO, president and chairman of the board of the foundation, a nonprofit organization whose programs are all free.

It's Brandon Edge's interest in the game that got his father, Jim, to take interest as well.

"This is the first time Brandon's been able to get on a fully abled golf course," he said. "I hope more and more golf courses will take a look at getting these carts, making it possible for us to go out and play."

Edge, of Lake Worth, met Nicklaus on a previous occasion and has a framed autograph in a special place in his room.

"He never quits," said Edge, on why Nicklaus is his favorite golfer.

Ashley, Brandon Edge's older sister, also spent the day at the golf course cheering on her brother.

"I think the tournament is very good for him -- educationally and socially," she said. "He's loved golf his whole life. It just gives him security."

Even though Edge, his father and their teammates, David Coldwell and Coldwell's son, Chris, 24, a Down syndrome child, didn't place in the top three, everybody was a winner.

"If I win this tournament today, I want to get that trophy for my grandfather," said Chris Coldwell of Palm Beach Gardens.

He may not have won the trophy, but it's the thought that counts.

"Golf has given [Chris] another outlet and confidence in himself, good physical activity, sportsmanship and sharing with others," David Coldwell said.

Pat Caramante of Jupiter and his 15-year-old son, Mike, who is mildly autistic, teamed up through nine holes with Owen Miley from Riviera Beach and his son, Michael Jordan Miley, who has epilepsy and is educationally/mentally handicapped.

"Mike and I have been out on a number of regulation golf courses, both here and when we go away on vacation," Pat Caramante said. "We usually play nine holes and we always have a good time. It's one of the great ways we can connect and do stuff together."

Although Mike Caramante and Mike Miley were friends since seventh grade, their fathers didn't meet and become friends until they learned of the Children's Golf Foundation three years ago.

"This has been outstanding for him," Owen Miley said. "We appreciate that they allow us as parents to go along with our kids to play [golf]."

Allison Edge said the Children's Golf Foundation offers these special kids a chance to let their guard down and be like everyone else.

"The Children's Golf Foundation has been able to break down the barriers where [Brandon] hasn't had the chance to play like the normal kids do and meet his challenges by the equipment and through the lessons," she said.

For more information, go to [www.childrensgolf.org](http://www.childrensgolf.org).