

Report: Harris Golf Academy Fall 2024

By Georgette Rolle -Harris

Founder

The Sean Connery Foundation's support of Harris Golf Academy is more than just an investment in a sports program—it's a transformative partnership that's changing the lives of young athletes, particularly those whose talents and dreams could easily be overshadowed by their circumstances. Through this foundation, we've been able to provide an affordable, high-quality platform for youth to pursue their golf aspirations, regardless of their socioeconomic background.

At Harris Golf Academy, we hold fast to the belief that every young player has the potential for greatness. As President Obama so powerfully stated, "We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek." This ethos is woven into the very fabric of our academy. Our mission is not just to teach golf but to nurture the spirit of resilience, dedication, and self-belief in our students. We understand that change—real, meaningful change—starts with the decisions we make today. And together, as a community, we are committed to creating a future where these young athletes not only dream but achieve.

The results have been clear. Through our programs, we have seen students earn college scholarships, opening doors that were once closed. Our school golf program has become a pipeline for identifying and cultivating raw talent, helping young players develop the skills they need to thrive at a competitive level. However, we recognize a significant challenge: students who are in school during regular hours often miss out on the critical time needed to perfect their craft. Meanwhile, those who can afford elite golf academies gain an early advantage—more reps, more hours on the course, and more opportunities to develop into professional players.

This disparity has a real impact on outcomes, especially at the international level. Without consistent access to training and high-level events, it's unrealistic to expect our players to perform at their best. To truly compete on the world stage, they need the opportunity to practice, train, and play in events that mirror the intensity and skill required of professional golf.

This is why Harris Golf Academy exists. We are committed to providing an affordable,

accessible path for young players who may not have the resources to attend other golf academies but have the passion and potential to succeed. Our academy levels the playing field, ensuring that no talent goes unnoticed because of financial limitations.

We are deeply grateful to the Sean Connery Foundation for believing in our vision and standing with us as we build a future where these young players can realize their full potential—where success is not determined by background, but by dedication, hard work, and belief in oneself. Together, we're shaping a future where dreams are not just possible but within reach.

Harris Golf Academy: A Breakthrough Year in 2024

What an incredible first year it's been for Harris Golf Academy! Our players have truly made a name for themselves on the national and international stage, showcasing the hard work, dedication, and support they've received through our academy. From achieving historic victories to representing our nation at the highest levels of junior golf, 2024 has been a year of milestones and success.

Key Achievements in 2024

- **3 Junior National Championship Winners:** Our players took the spotlight by securing victories in the Boys 13U, Girls 13U, and Girls 15U categories.
- **National Amateur Championship:** We swept the podium, taking 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place for women at the National Amateur Championship.
- **Caribbean Amateur Junior Golf Championships:**
 - **Girls 13U Champion:** Our player won the title for the first time in 22 years!
 - **Girls 15U Runner-Up:** A close second in a highly competitive field.
- **8 of 14 Players on the 2024 Junior National Team:** A remarkable 57% of our players earned spots on the Junior National Team—a testament to the quality of training and development they've received.
- **Team Bahamas:** For the first time in over a decade, our team led by Harris Golf Academy placed 3rd in the 2024 Caribbean Amateur Junior Golf Championships.
- **2 Players on the National Team for the George Teale Cup:** We're proud to have representation at this prestigious event.
- **Junior Golf Awards:** Our players won **3 Player of the Year Awards** across various categories, underscoring their individual growth and excellence.
- **8 Local Titles:** Harris Golf Academy players claimed 8 combined titles in the U.S. Kids Golf local Nassau Spring and Fall Tours.

Innovative Programs and Cutting-Edge Technology

We believe in offering more than just lessons on the golf course; we're committed to providing our players with the tools they need to succeed both in competition and in life. To that end, we've integrated some of the latest technologies and training programs into our academy.

- **Trackman Combine Scores:** Trackman is a critical tool for college coaches, and we aim for our players to reach a minimum Combine Score of 70 within three years. Currently, our players are averaging a score of 40—a solid foundation for growth.
- **Short Game Testing:** Our players are actively working on their short game, with an emphasis on realistic scoring. Players are currently trending between the **green** and **yellow** ranges, meaning they can shoot in the 70s or 80s based on their performance.

15-18	Player capable of shooting par or better
18-22	Player typically shoots scores in the 70s
22-27	Player typically shoots scores in the 80s
27-32	Player typically shoots in the 90s
32+	Player typically shoots in the 100s

- **U.S. Kids Golf Tournaments:** Our players compete in local Nassau Tour events twice a year, and we track their progress through tournament scores to monitor their development.
- **Gym Access at Macfit Gym:** In collaboration with Macfit, the premier gym in Nassau, our players have access to state-of-the-art fitness equipment. Despite a minimum age of 16 for access, Macfit has allowed our academy to train younger players, showing their belief in our vision.
- **Arcos Sensors:** This cutting-edge golf performance tracking system allows us to monitor each shot, track club yardage, and analyze performance data. Our players now have access to the same technology used by professional golfers to fine-tune their strategies.
- **Sportsbox AI 3D App:** With Sportsbox, we can analyze each player's swing in 2D and 3D, comparing their mechanics to PGA and LPGA tour players. This tool not

only highlights areas for improvement but also provides customized drills to enhance performance.

- **Custom Golf Bags:** To build team spirit and pride, each of our players receives a custom Harris Golf Academy golf bag, a symbol of the academy they represent.
- **Hurricane Junior Golf Tour Tournaments:** Our players will compete in the prestigious Hurricane Junior Golf Tour in Florida in Spring 2025. We are aiming for participation in two events, allowing our athletes to gain invaluable competitive experience.

The Road Ahead: 2025 and Beyond

As we continue to build on the foundation laid in 2024, the future looks incredibly bright for Harris Golf Academy. In **Spring 2025**, we will introduce additional technology like Arccos Sensors and Sportsbox AI, allowing our players to further refine their skills and track their progress in real-time.

Our commitment to offering the best resources, from gym access and advanced technology to world-class coaching, will continue to set our players up for success—both on and off the course. We are also exploring more international tournaments, such as those on the Hurricane Junior Golf Tour, which will offer our players even more exposure and competition at a high level.

Reflecting on Our Journey

From humble beginnings as a pilot program in Fall 2023, we've grown into a fully established academy with 15 dedicated students in Year 1. The support we've received from our partners, including the Sean Connery Foundation and Macfit Gym, has been invaluable. With the backing of our incredible community, the future of Harris Golf Academy looks brighter than ever.

Together, we're not just building a golf academy—we're shaping the next generation of golf champions. Here's to more victories, more breakthroughs, and a continued commitment to excellence in the years ahead!

Exhibit 1: Sample student Report Core Competencies- Haley Hall (age 13)

CORE COMPETENCIES	
Holing Out 3ft - 12ft	60%
Medium putting 12ft to 24ft	25%
Long putting 24ft to 50ft	15%
Greenside chipping <30yds	30%
Greenside bunker <30yds	40%
Greenside pitching <50yds	30%
Greenside flop shot <30yds	10%
Pitching 50-100 yds	30%
Fairway bunkers - variable	20%
Recovery shots	45%
Short Iron Approach - PD	45%
Mid Iron Approach - PD	40%
Long Iron/Hybrid Approach - PD	40%
Driving - PD	80%
Motivation & Desire	80%
Work Ethic	65%
Attitude & Temperment	45%
Discipline & Organization	35%
Confidence in ability to perform	80%
Coping with mistakes & Disappointment	30%
Concentration in practice	50%
Concentration in competition	75%
Pre-tournament prep and goals	50%
Gathering shot information	40%
Making Pre-Shot decisions	40%
Ability to commit to decision	50%
Response to the result	10%
Post tournament reflection	20%

Exhibit 2: Sample student Report US Kids Results - Haley Hall (age 13)

US Kids RESULTS	
US Kids T1 at Lyford	74
US Kids T2 at Albany	81
US Kids T3 at Lyford	82
US Kids T4 at Ocean Club	74
US Kids T5 at Ocean Club	76
US Kids T6 at Royal Blue	76
Scoring Average	77.17

Exhibit 3: Sample student Report Short Game Testing - Haley Hall (age 13)

SHORT GAME TESTING	
15-18 - Player capable of shooting par or better	
18-22 - Player typically shoots scores in the 70s	
22-27 - Player typically shoots scores in the 80s	
27-32 - Player typically shoots in the 90s	
32+ - Player typically shoots in the 100s	
Round 1	21
Round 2	23
Round 3	20
Round 4	23
Round 5	22
Round 6	25
Scoring Average	22.33

Exhibit 4: Sample student Report Gym Competencies - Haley Hall (age 13)

GYM COMPETENCIES	
Mobility	40%
Flexibility	75%
Strength	70%
Endurance	50%
Overall fitness	65%
Motivation & Desire	90%
Work Ethic	85%
Attitude & Tempermant	85%
Discipline & Organization	75%
Confidence in ability to perform	90%
Coping with mistakes & Disappointment	95%
Concentration in practice	90%

Exhibit 5: Sample student Report Yardages- Haley Hall (age 13)

YARDAGES	
56 degree	80yds
60 degree	60yds
Three quarter PW	80yds
PW	117yds
Three quarter 9 Iron	110yds
9 Iron	128yds
Three quarter 8 Iron	135yds
8 Iron	145yds
Three quarter 7 Iron	137yds
7 Iron	150yds

Three quarter 6 Iron	142yds
6 Iron	162yds
4 Iron	177yds
Hybrid 2	185yds
5 W	200yds
3W	215yds
Bunt Driver	225yds
Driver	240yds

Exhibit 6: Sample student Report Trackman Combine Scores - Haley Hall (age 13)

TRACKMAN COMBINE SCORES	
Combine Score	47.1
Estimated Handicap based on scores	15
60 yds	55.7
70 yds	53.3
80 yds	68.5
90 yds	70.3
100 yds	39.2
120 yds	65.5
140 yds	60.8
160 yds	80.3
180 yds	25.3
Driver	43.3



Haley, Rashawn, Anissa, and Angelino at practice.



Talented public primary school golfer who will likely be recruited into Harris Golf Academy.



Exposing the game to public school students to identify talent.



Zakary Joseph, age 13, Harris Golf Academy scholarship student and national team member.



Anissa Robinson, age 13, Harris Golf Academy scholarship student and reigning Caribbean Amateur Junior Golf Champions Girls 13U champion



Four Harris Golf Academy students, all initially from public primary schools, getting ready to tee off in a U.S. Kids Tournament