



THE INSIDE PITCH

2026 April Edition

THE PERFECT GAME FOUNDATION® is a 501(c)(3) Non Profit that was created in April of 2011 to assist those who aspire to a working career in sports.

Welcome to The Inside Pitch for April published by Sanah Hathiramani!

Today you'll hear from The Inside Pitch Publisher Sanah Hathiramani along with regulars Ben Hoffman with Ben's Byline and Julia Boller with Julia's Captures.

This month we'll also hear from new Fellows "In Their Own Words" from Ava Filipponi, Zach Jacobson and Andrew Merenda.

TPGF Golf '26 work continues and we're excited about the Auction Items, new prizes and the always World Class TPC Potomac Golf Course!

The Perfect Game Foundation began work on April 1, 2011 with the Mission to help those who have chosen a career path in sports. To date, TPGF has had the privilege of helping over

400 Fellows from all over as they began (or continued) their journey.

They have come from schools across the country, from diverse backgrounds and functional aspirations.

In Their Own Words

Ava Filipponi



As a senior at Coastal Carolina University majoring in Sport Management with a minor in Hospitality Management, my journey has been shaped by a passion for both sports and creating meaningful experiences for others. Throughout my time at CCU, I've had the opportunity to serve as a Marketing and Game Day Experience Intern, where I supported the planning and execution of promotions and fan engagement initiatives. Being part of game day operations showed me how much thought and coordination goes into creating an exciting gameday atmosphere, and it strengthened my interest in the behind-the-scenes side of sports.

In addition to my internship experience, I am also a member of the club beach volleyball team, which has given me a unique perspective as both an athlete and someone working in sports operations. Being an athlete has helped me better understand what makes events engaging, memorable, and impactful for both players and fans.

I am excited to continue building on these experiences as I begin my upcoming internship in Sales Event Planning with the Washington Wizards this May. So grateful for this opportunity, as well as the opportunity to benefit from the TPGF Fellows and Del as they help me to further develop my skills in event coordination, client relations, and live event execution within a professional sports organization.

Looking ahead, my goal is to pursue a career in sports event planning, where I can combine my passion for sports with my interest in creating high-quality, engaging experiences. Eager to continue learning, growing, and contributing to the industry, and greater up and I am grateful for the opportunities that have helped shape my path so far. The support/counsel from TPGF Fellows has been an invaluable asset and I look forward to many more TPGF experiences to come!

Zack Jacobson



Hello. I am Zach Jacobson, a Senior at McLean School. In late May through early June for my Senior Project TPGF has asked me do some writing for as a writer for their monthly newsletter. Additionally, there will be work helping out with the 14th annual Golf Tournament Fund Raiser on July 14 at TPC Potomac.

The reason why I wanted to work for TPGF for my senior project is that a career path in Sports Media is my focus and there is a large amount of knowledge and experience to be gained in that field working at TPGF. Meeting some great people will be an additional bonus!

As for my plans, at the time of this being written, I am still deciding between a few places for college, but regardless of which school, the plan is to major in sports media and get a job in that field. Very grateful for getting this opportunity, and can't wait to get to work!

Andrew Merenda



The past three months, I've had the opportunity to work with the Baltimore Orioles in their Ticket Sales and Service Department through the Associates Program. Working directly with Birdland Members has been incredibly rewarding, and the experience has given me a deeper understanding of how a professional sports organization operates from the top down.

Beyond the day-to-day interactions, this role has strengthened my communication skills, adaptability, and ability to provide value in a fast-paced, team-oriented environment. Being part of an organization with such a strong culture and passionate fan base has reinforced my interest in pursuing a career in sports business.

I want to sincerely thank TPGF and Del for their continued support, guidance, and investment in my development—it has made a meaningful impact on my growth both personally and professionally.

Here's to a great start to the season—Let's Go O's!

Ben's Byline



Hello, my name is Ben Hoffman, and I'm a 19-year-old freshman at James Madison University. In my last article, I covered NFL free agency, and this month I'll be focusing on the MLB opening week. The start of the Major League Baseball season always brings excitement, fresh storylines, and renewed hope for teams and fans across the league.

Teams performed very well during opening week, setting the tone for the season. With excellent hitting and pitching performances, the Los Angeles Dodgers, the reigning champions, started the season looking just as dominant as they did the year before. In the meantime, clubs like the New York Yankees and Atlanta Braves demonstrated their star power and strung together outstanding early victories, demonstrating why they are regarded as contenders.

During opening week, there were also a few surprises. The Arizona Diamondbacks and Baltimore Orioles, two underdog clubs, proved they could contend with some of the top teams in the league. Fans were given a preview of potential breakthrough seasons by the early-season performances of young players and recent additions. Hitters didn't take long to make an impression at the plate, and pitchers gave strong performances.

Opening week is just the start of a long season, as is typically the case, but fans have lots to look forward to. There is still a lot of baseball to be played, and teams are still finding their rhythm. With 162 games remaining, anything is possible, and early momentum might be crucial going forward.

Which team do you believe will continue to be strong and go far this season?

Julia's Corner



Hi, Julia Boller here, a freshman at Virginia Tech. Instead of “Julia’s Captures” for this month, this will be writing about the Virginia Tech wrestling team, the Big Event, and spring at Virginia Tech!

I expect Julia’s Captures to come back shortly after I get home for summer. The Virginia Tech wrestling team had another amazing season, winning their second ACC championship in a row. The team, headed with wrestlers like Caleb Henson and Eddie Ventresca are an absolute powerhouse and can only expect to get better next season, when superstar Bo Bassett joins the squad. Bo Bassett had an undefeated high school season and is one of the best wrestlers in the nation, competing nationally as well and doing phenomenally well, having multiple national titles under his belt.

The wrestling world of the Hokies has such a bright future and I am excited to see what happens next! The Big Event was so much fun this past weekend. My friends and I helped out a family split the wood to help prepare for winter. One person was in charge of bringing the wood to the hydraulic cutter, one person was in charge of passing the wood to the person doing the hydraulic cutter and one person bringing the chopped wood to the place for storage. We ended up cutting 5 trees worth of wood over 3 hours. I had an awesome time and am so excited for next year!

Spring is gearing up in Blacksburg, and the temperatures are rising after 2 “fake springs” (weeks where the temperatures rose but shot back down the next week). The trees are becoming much more colorful and I can already feel summer coming soon!

Sanah's Sentiments



As summer approaches, sports events are taking over our calendars and fans couldn't be more excited. This month, I want to dig into something that happens behind the scenes of every major event: sports marketing, and whether the investment actually pays off.

From the Super Bowl to March Madness to Coachella, I've been paying close attention to which brands are showing up and how. The investments are anything but small, a single banner slot at the Super Bowl can run upwards of \$8 million. So is it actually worth it?

The short answer is yes. Live events give brands something traditional advertising can't: a captive, emotionally charged audience that paid to be there and is primed to engage. Add in the social media ripple effect and the ROI starts to make a lot more sense.

Next time you're watching, take a second to notice which brands are in the frame. There's a strategy behind every banner and every activation, and now you know why!

[Sign Up Now!](#) July 13, 2026 TPC Potomac!! TPGF Golf # 14!

Auction Items, Mulligans, Prizes for Putting, Closest to the Pin, Long Drive and a Special Hole in One Contest!



The Perfect Game Foundation | PO Box 3314 | McLean, VA 22102 US

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