



## THE INSIDE PITCH 2026 February 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.

**From April 1, 2011 to now.... Year 15 Winds Down with Work Under Way For TPGF Golf  
#14 on July 13, TPC Potomac!**

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

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. TPGF has been honored to have been able to assist these Fellows with mentoring, career planning, networking, assistance finding internships and projects to enhance their resumes and support/assistance in the job search effort.

Over these years the support TPGF has received has been so beneficial to helping the over Foundation Fellows with grants and project fees. The majority of that donor support has come from activity around the Annual Fund Raiser Golf Tournament and TPGF Golf '26 carries on that tradition.

If you can help by playing, sponsoring, providing auction items or just donating we all say Thank You!

Golf Tournament Registration is now LIVE! Register [HERE](#).

Today you'll hear from The Inside Pitch Publisher Sanah Hathiramani along with regulars Ben Hoffman with Ben's Byline, Julia Boller with some thoughts on freshman year in college and Kelly Okun, Foundation Fellow, Professional Golfer and now business owner with some thoughts in Her Own Words.

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### Kelly Okun



## Fairway to Green

Hi everyone! My name is [Kelly Okun](#), and I'm the founder and CEO of [Fairway to Green](#).

**We're a golf media company that inspires girls to play and stay in the game so they can develop leadership skills to help them thrive wherever they go next.**

I didn't always know I'd start my own company, but I had a good feeling I'd stay in golf. I played DI golf at William & Mary before competing professionally for 5 years. When it was time to retire, I was lucky enough to have Del and The Perfect Game Foundation in my corner. He introduced me to my first office job, a golf marketing agency. There, I learned everything I could about marketing and media. Add in an MBA from UVA Darden, and I was off!

My passion has always been to grow the game and support girls in an industry that is heavily male-dominated. **Did you know that 94% of female executives played sports growing up, but most girls drop out of sports by the age of 13?** I knew I had to find a way to encourage girls to start and keep playing, so I narrowed down Fairway to Green's pillars to three main ways we can make an impact:

**1. Storytelling & media coverage:** Our true calling is telling the story of women athletes so they can inspire the next generation to play and stay in the sport. In addition to our writing, our [golf podcast network](#) has grown exponentially in the last 6 months, and we have two more podcasts launching soon.

**2. Our college recruiting platform:** Launching this spring, our college golf recruiting platform is how we are more directly supporting these girls. The more opportunities they have to stay in the game longer, the more they'll learn about leadership along the way.

**3. Educational courses:** Mental health is a priority for us – we want our athletes to love themselves, their families and their sport. Navigating playing careers at any level can be stressful, and we are currently building out courses in areas like sports psychology, NIL, financial literacy and more to ease that burden.

If you have a passion for any of these areas, **we're always looking for interns**. I used freelance writing while I was competing to build up my portfolio and prepare for my transition out of professional golf, and I offer the same opportunity (plus introductions to the golf industry) to my writers, podcasters and video editors.

Additionally, if you or someone you know may be **interested in partnering with us**, whether it's to sponsor a podcast or newsletter or as an expert in this space, I'd be happy to jump on a call.

Thank you all for supporting Del/TPGF and now us at Fairway to Green! You can reach me at [kelly@fairwaytogreen.com](mailto:kelly@fairwaytogreen.com) and keep up to date with our latest podcast launches and golf news by [subscribing to our newsletter here](#).

You can also follow us on [Instagram](#), [TikTok](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [X](#) and [YouTube](#).



## 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 my experience at Virginia Tech heading into the second semester of freshman year, and also what I did over winter break!

This past season, Hokie football fell to 3-9, having its 4th losing season in the last 5 years. Something had to change in the coaching aspect, as it was another underwhelming season. This offseason however, a major change was made in Hokie nation, as James Franklin was hired as the new head coach of Virginia Tech football, and Brent Pry was fired from his head coaching position. James Franklin has helped a massive rebuild of the football team and has done nothing less than improved the team drastically. Some of the major pickups include Ethan Grunkemeyer, a Penn State quarterback, and Messiah Minkins, who is a 4-star running back. James Franklin is rapidly changing the program, and restored hope in the fans, who do expect a lot this coming season. I personally think that all of the recruits that James Franklin brought to the school will do wonders next year, and that the Hokie football team will have a winning season, and many more to come (I hope so)! Next month, I will discuss how the beginning of the second semester is going so far, and also the men’s basketball team, as March Madness is around the corner!



## 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 the NFL playoffs, and this month I'll be focusing on the NBA trade deadline. This year's deadline was one of the most active in NBA history, with 68 players traded, including several All-Stars and superstar players. Major trades reshaped multiple teams and could have a huge impact on the rest of the season and the playoff race.

One of the biggest moves involved James Harden, who was traded from the Los Angeles Clippers to the Cleveland Cavaliers in exchange for Darius Garland. Anthony Davis was also traded in a massive deal that sent him to the Washington Wizards, while Kristaps Porzingis was traded to the Golden State Warriors, giving them a strong inside presence.

Another major move saw Jaren Jackson Jr. traded to the Utah Jazz in a deal involving multiple players and future first-round picks. These trades show that teams were willing to make bold decisions to improve their chances of competing now or building for the future.

Several other important trades also took place across the league. The Boston Celtics traded for Nikola Vucevic to strengthen their frontcourt, while the Timberwolves acquired Ayo Dosunmu to improve their depth. The Pacers traded for Ivica Zubac, and multiple teams exchanged draft picks and young players to prepare for the future. Some teams clearly pushed to compete for a championship, while others focused on rebuilding and gaining valuable assets.

Now that the trade deadline has passed, teams must adjust quickly as they push toward



the playoffs. New players will have to fit into their teams and make an immediate impact. These moves could determine which teams succeed and which fall short. Which trade do you think will have the biggest impact on the rest of the NBA season?

## Sanah's Sentiments



The Super Bowl is known as the biggest annual event in American sports, but it has grown into much more than football. Every year, more than 100 million viewers tune in for the game, the commercials, the halftime show, and the shared experience that comes with it.

The event now reaches far beyond football fans. Many viewers tune in purely for entertainment, especially the halftime show. This year, with more than 135 million viewers, Bad Bunny reportedly set a new viewership benchmark across Super Bowl halftime show history. Forbes described the performance as a blueprint for modern brand growth, creating a moment audiences felt rather than just watched. The production, cultural representation, and real-time audience reaction made it one of the most talked-about performances in recent years.

On a personal level, the performance felt meaningful. Growing up in Spain and now living in the United States, it felt like a reflection of my own experience. American values blending with diverse cultures and honoring differences instead of fighting them.

Moments like this show how much the Super Bowl has evolved beyond the field. It has become a gathering rather than solely a sports event, making it a social moment people look forward to every year. I am already excited to see who headlines the halftime show next year.

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The Perfect Game  
Foundation

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Additional Info Email:

[del.wilber@perfectgamefound.org](mailto:del.wilber@perfectgamefound.org)

**SAVE THE DATE!! July 13, 2026 TPC Potomac!! TPGF Golf # 14!**  
**Register [HERE](#).**



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