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.

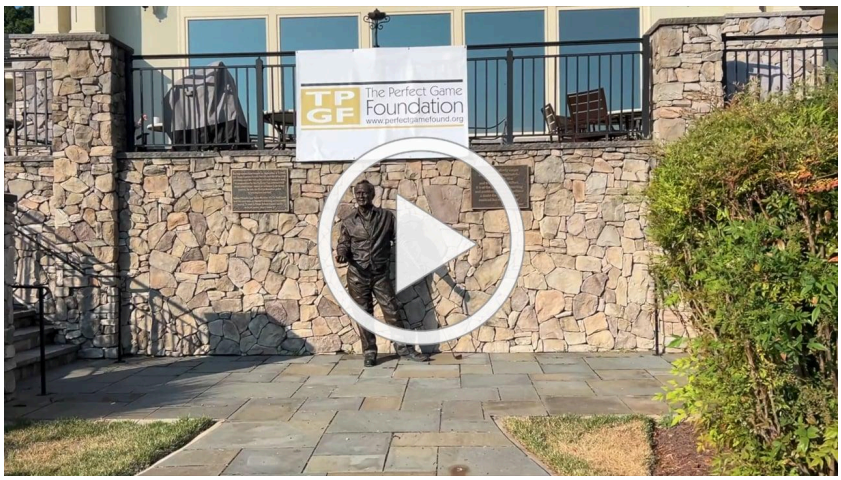
Welcome to The Inside Pitch for September!

We have included our summary video of TPGF Golf ‘26 in case you missed it ! Fun was had by all and TPGF thanks all the participants, TPC Potomac Staff and TPGF Fellows!

This edition always marks the debut of Julia Boller (Virginia Tech ‘29) as the Editor Publisher of The Inside Pitch….Welcome Julia!

It also marks the time when Sanah Hathiramani moves on in her career. TPGF is grateful for her help over the past year Publishing The inside Pitch as well as contributing to the TPGF website. Thank you Sanah and many happy miles going forward!

A short video…TPGF Golf ‘26 below



In Her Own Words
Charlotte Vance

Today the inside pitch features Charlotte Vance ‘In Her Own Words’! You will enjoy hearing about her ‘path’ and how it has taken her to Nationals Park and the Washington Nationals. Go War Eagle! (Charlotte is an Auburn Grad before becoming a UVA Darden Grad)

As many folks who want to work in sports, I grew up an athlete. However after my battle with cancer in sixth grade, sports took on a whole new meaning in my life. I knew then that I wanted to find a way to work in sports someday to bring that same sense of meaning to others, but I had absolutely no idea what that meant or how I could actually make it happen. So I started asking as many questions as I could to as many people within the sports industry as I could in an effort to understand what kinds of careers were even out there. That curiosity eventually led me to Auburn, where I studied computer science because I loved problem-solving and wanted to build a technical skill set that would give me options.

From there, I joined Epsilon, where I saw how technology and data could shape business decisions and started realizing that I was less interested in technology for its own sake than how I could use it to understand people and serve them better. At each step, I was thinking less about checking the next box and more about where I could learn the most, whether that meant building technical skills, learning how a large company operates, or figuring out what I actually enjoyed doing -- or on the flip side, what I did not enjoy doing.

That mindset ultimately brought me to Darden for my MBA. I wanted to broaden my skill set beyond technology and analytics and learn more about leadership, strategy, and how businesses really operate holistically. I also wanted to put myself in an environment where I could learn from people with completely different experiences and perspectives. At Darden, I immersed myself in sports and entertainment, led the Media, Entertainment & Sports Club and MBA Sports Business Alliance, and kept following opportunities that would stretch me, including roles with the Washington Nationals and Unrivaled (Women's 3x3 Basketball League).

I’ve tried to make that same question a constant in every career decision: Where, how, and from whom can I learn the most from right now? I ultimately returned to the Nationals after graduation, where I now work in customer insights and brand strategy, with my chief goal as understanding and knowing our fans and their needs intimately. Looking back, my path has certainly not been linear, but I think that's actually been one of its strengths. I have absolutely never had the whole thing figured out but have opted to stay curious and tried to make each next step an opportunity to learn something that would help me get closer to where I think I want to go.

NATIONALS
NATIONALS PARK
GEICO

Darden

Ben's Byline

Hello, my name is Ben Hoffman, and I'm a 19-year-old sophomore at James Madison University. In my last byline, I covered the NBA preseason, and this month I'll be talking about the start of college football. After a long offseason, college football is finally back, and fans are ready for another season filled with big games, rivalries, and surprising teams.

There are plenty of teams to watch this season, not just the usual powerhouse programs. Schools like Virginia Tech, Virginia, Miami, Texas Tech, BYU, and SMU have all made moves through recruiting and the transfer portal to improve their teams. Virginia Tech brought in 27 transfers and made a big change by hiring James Franklin as its new head coach, while Virginia added 29 transfers after winning 11 games last season. These teams could be looking to take the next step and compete for a spot in the College Football Playoff.

The transfer portal and recruiting have made college football even more unpredictable. Teams can add a large number of new players in the offseason, which can completely change their roster and expectations. While teams like Ohio State, Oregon, Georgia, and Notre Dame are expected to compete for a championship, there are also plenty of other schools that could surprise everyone and make a run at the playoff.

After months of waiting, college football is finally back, and fans have a lot to look forward to. Every team starts the season with the goal of making the College Football Playoff and competing for a national championship. With new players, new coaches, and several teams looking to prove themselves, this should be another exciting college football season. Which team do you think will surprise everyone this year?

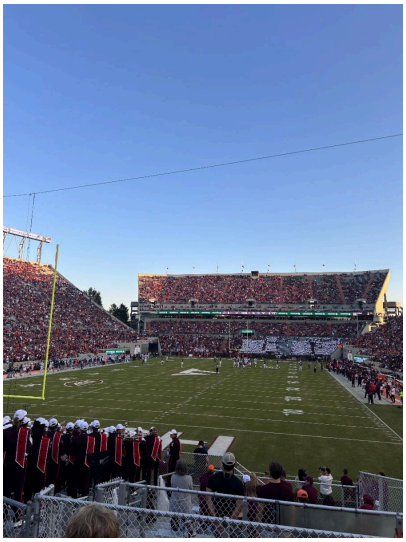
Julia's Corner

Hi, Julia Boller here, a sophomore at Virginia Tech. In this month's "Julia's Corner", I will be detailing how the beginning of my sophomore year is going, and the buzz around the Hokies football team. I am also very excited to become the new editor of the newsletter, thank you to Sanah for all her hard work in the past and I wish her the best of luck on her future endeavors!

I moved in this past weekend, and I am really excited to be back at Virginia Tech! I am still living in the dorm this year, so it will be interesting navigating to my friends off campus apartments and houses. I will definitely be getting my steps in this semester!

It is so great to be back, and the weather has been just wonderful for the first week of classes. With Virginia Tech being a very walkable campus, it is always a blessing when the weather is amazing. This week, there has been a very cool breeze with only moderate heat, the campus has definitely been gifted this first week. Looking forward to a great third semester!

The first football game is a home game on September 5th, which will be the first official time James Franklin's Hokies will take the field. There are very high expectations for this season, as the football team has levels of talent that rarely come through Blacksburg. Virginia Tech is favored in this game versus VMI, but will Virginia Tech be able to handle the bright night lights? Led by Ethan Grunkemeyer, Marcellous Hawkins and Luke Reynolds, the Hokies have a bright future ahead of them, and I cannot wait to see how this season turns out!



Here is a picture I took at a football game last year!

Sanah's Sentiments

As summer comes to an end and everyone looks forward to the leaves changing, people get excited about bonding over Fantasy Football in the office. Once again, sports create community, healthy competition, and a fun time with coworkers and friends.

In a way, work is a team sport too. Everyone brings different expertise to the table, and together, you're able to reach better outcomes than you ever could alone. My experience at a startup has been both rewarding and challenging in this way. I came into medical devices with no prior background in engineering or hospital regulations, and over the past year, I've really evolved as a team player.

As my team keeps growing, I think it's important to build real bonds with teammates and to document your own skills and experiences so others can learn from them too, especially when you've picked up knowledge they haven't had a chance to yet. My team is great about this: sharing insights from a client issue they've run into that I haven't, or vice versa. That kind of knowledge-sharing is what makes a team strong.

It reminds me of sports, actually. Everyone has a position they play, and over time, that position brings out their best qualities. It's fun to see that same dynamic show up at work!

Last but not least, I wanted to share some exciting news! I've really enjoyed being the Editor for this awesome newsletter full of fun stories, lots of talent and a unique community for the past year, thank you all. Julia Boller is taking over this position and I have no doubt the newsletter will continue to be incredible moving forward!

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