

The Kudos Board for Juniors

The "Kudos Board" is proudly displayed in our junior section of the Pro Shop here at Triple Crown Country Club. As kids earned "Kudos"; played well in tourneys, earned their "A cards"(pass a skills test that allows them the right to play on the golf course without their parents), earned a spot in the Ky Open, be voted "best teammate", etc. I would add a "Kudos" to the board.

I was excited to see how the kids responded, all ages of kids would come into see if they had made the "Kudos Board", or inform me of something someone may have done to earn a kudos. And then, I caddied for Austin Squires in the US Open qualifier at Gibson Bay GC. That is the day I knew the "Kudos Board" really worked. We are standing on the 18th tee box, he hasn't played his best, but he has fought hard, he stands a respectable +2 over par. Knowing a birdie will at least give him a slight chance to qualify, he looks at me and says, "I better make that dag gone kudos board!" As the cold chills ran down my spine, I informed him that we needed to focus on the task at hand. But, I knew then, that the Kudos Board had merit with not only my 5th graders, but some of the best players in the state.

Junior golf is big here at Triple Crown...we recently had four kids sign to play D-1 golf, that makes 10 D-1 golfers in the last 5 years.

Little things like the "Kudos Board" have helped create a positive, confidence building culture for the kids. Financially, junior club and apparel sales have doubled in the past five years here at the club. We cannot directly attribute the sales increase to the "Kudos Board", but it has definitely contributed to increased traffic in the Pro Shop junior section.

Fairways and Greens,

John Kells

Assistant Golf Professional

Triple Crown Country Club

KPGA Assistants/Apprentices Division President

