

BY
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DONOVAN WORKS TOWARDS A CAREER IN GOLF

REPUBLIC POLY STUDENT IS PROMOTED
TO ELITE SQUAD AFTER SENSATIONAL
JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP WIN

He is focused on what he wants to do. And he has the support of his caring parents. A career in golf is what Donovan Lee, 17, has set for himself.



The Republic Polytechnic (RP) student has had a phenomenal rise in his golf pursuits since he was encouraged to pick up the game by his encouraging dad, Alvin, nine years ago.

He won several junior titles over the years and his handicap has dropped to an impressive 0.0. And he underlined his prowess recently by a come-from-behind sensational victory in the Singapore Junior Championship.

At the challenging Seletar Country Club course, Donovan shot a three-over 75 to be tied on 14th position after the first day, six shots behind leader Tommy Tan.

But on the second day, he recorded a superb 65 to shoot up the leaderboard and join Tommy (71) at the perch in sensational style.

And when the final day's play was rained off, Donovan edged out Tommy in a play-off with a par on the tough par-four 18th as Tommy chipped and two-putted for a bogey.

The Singapore Golf Association (SGA) was so impressed with Donovan's progress that this week, they promoted him to the Elite Squad from the Development Squad. And they also rewarded him with a spot in the biennial World Amateur Championship for the Eisenhower Trophy in Dublin, Ireland, in September.

Donovan, whose biggest event so far has been the British Junior Open, is pleased that his family is behind him in his career pursuit. Mum, Evon, also a social golfer and brother, Zanes (10 handicap index), joins dad, Alvin, in encouraging the promising teenager.

Currently studying sports coaching at RP, Donovan has struggled but managed to cope in his balance of sports and studies. After a seven-hour day at school on weekdays, he joins the SGA golf training and also squeezes in gym work, leaving him

with an hour or two for homework.

On weekends, Donovan plays 18-hole rounds and manages to find some time for studies. After his first year at RP, he will specialise in golf coaching and hopes to intensify his programme with an overseas stint at one of RP's affiliated universities.

But for now, he has his feet on the ground although his mind is set on achieving some "highs", namely some raised-profile tournament wins and a smooth transition to being a golf pro, with coaching and management in the game as add-ons.

The talented Donovan Lee (above) with exco member Lyn Sen, and (below) at Seletar Country Club course.



NG PROMOTED TO SGA GENERAL MANAGER

Comparatively speaking, Jerome Ng started golf pretty late, at the age of 12 as a pupil of St Gabriel's School.

But the affable Ng, 29, who was inducted into the game by his dotting dad John, has progressed in golf like no other local player in the last 17 years.

Within two years of his introduction to the game, he brought his handicap index down to a low single and earned his place in the National junior team.

And at the age of 15, he made the senior team and eventually brought his handicap index down to a very impressive plus-2.

So, from having played in the Callaway World Junior event at Torrey Pines in the United States, Ng went on to represent Singapore at several Putra Cup, SEA Games and Asian Amateur Championships.

In 2016, the Singapore Golf Association (SGA) were taken up by his demeanour and personality and offered him a coaching job to assist then national coach Andrew Welsford.

With that job twinning with that of a High Performance Manager/Acting General Manager, Ng showed great qualities in management of the sport and motivation of young golfers. The SGA were so deeply impressed that this week they decided to promote him to GM from next month.

Ng, a multiple Malaysian State Open winner who is also armed with a Philippines Amateur crown, is an arts honours and business management graduate from the University of Northumbria (Newcastle).

Said Ng: "It is a challenging road ahead. I'm grateful to the forward-looking SGA Board for their encouragement and support to me in my last two years of management." — **Godfrey Robert**



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— JEROME NG (ABOVE)