



Matthew Sutherland of The First Tee of Greater Sacramento Wins at Pure Insurance Championship Playing Alongside His Uncle

Caroline Wales from The First Tee of the Coachella Valley Wins Second Place

Palm Desert, CA (October 12, 2018) Matthew Sutherland from The First Tee of Greater Sacramento and his uncle, PGA TOUR Champions professional Kevin Sutherland, clinched the Pro-Junior title September 30 at the PURE Insurance Championship Impacting The First Tee finishing 16-under. The Sutherlands won the tournament in a three-way scorecard playoff with Caroline Wales from The First Tee of Coachella Valley (Calif.) and pro partner Stephen Ames, and Yena Jang from The First Tee of Greater Sacramento and pro partner Duffy Waldorf.



(Left to Right) Caroline Wales, Matthew Sutherland, Yena Jang

The PURE Insurance Championship is a unique event that pairs junior golfers with PGA TOUR Champions professionals. Eighty-one juniors and pros were in the field for the tournament played at Pebble Beach Golf Links and Poppy Hills Golf Course the last weekend of September. Caroline Wales was one of 23 junior golfers who made the cut to play the third and final round at Pebble Beach Golf Links.

Caroline was only 8 years old when she began playing golf at TFTCV. The incoming Palm Desert High School sophomore carries a 4.6 GPA and was named Freshman Golfer of the Year. She's been in a First Tee commercial with Pro golfer Rick Folwer and shot 79 during a U-S Women's Amateur Qualifier. Wales has attended the 2018 College Golf Prep Academy in West Palm Beach, Florida and the 2017 Life Skills and Leadership Academy in East Lansing, Michigan.

Matthew Sutherland of The First Tee of Greater Sacramento Wins at Pure Insurance

“Congratulations to all 81 of our junior golfers and especially Matthew Sutherland for their outstanding performance at this week’s tournament,” said Keith Dawkins, Chief Executive Officer of The First Tee. “These teens demonstrate how The First Tee’s Nine Core Values positively impact kids’ lives and can be used every day on and off the course. A special thanks to PURE Insurance and Monterey Peninsula Foundation for helping make their dreams come true.”

“We are proud of all the juniors who competed this week; it was an absolute honor to get to know each and every one of these incredible young men and women who will undoubtedly go on to do great things,” said Katherine Frattarola, Chief Marketing Officer of the PURE Group of Insurance Companies.

To learn more about The First Tee of the Coachella Valley, visit <https://www.thefirstteecoachellavalley.org> For more information on the 2018 PURE Insurance Championship, visit www.pureinsurancechampionship.com. For more information on Caroline Wales), to request an interview or photos, please contact Dustin Smith, 775-722-7181 or dsmith@drd.us.com

The First Tee of the Coachella Valley

The First Tee of the Coachella Valley www.thefirstteecoachellavalley.org is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit youth sports organization whose mission is to grow the game of golf by transforming the experience that kids (and families) have with the sport. The First Tee is engaging the next generation of fans through unique golf experiences, signature events and strategic partnerships. Since its inception in 1997, The First Tee has introduced the sport of golf and The First Tee’s Nine Core Values to more than 15 million kids, positively impacting their lives along the way. The First Tee offers programs in all 50 states, reaching more than 5 million kids annually through: The National School Program in more than 10,000 elementary schools, 150 chapters at more than 1,200 golf courses and The First Tee DRIVE at 1,300 youth centers. The First Tee is expanding globally and currently offers programs at six international locations.

Desert Recreation District

Desert Recreation District (DRD) is the largest park and recreation district in California, covering over 1,800 square miles and serving more than 385,000 residents throughout the greater Coachella Valley. DRD manages, maintains and assists in maintaining over 30 parks and recreation facilities; creates and delivers quality programs, services and classes; and, facilitates leisure opportunities through partnerships – this community collaborative approach allows us to provide barrier-free and safe recreational activities. DRD strives to ensure the public receives personal benefits such as physical fitness, relaxation and revitalization; social benefits in the form of stronger and healthier families and enriching the lives for persons with disabilities, and economic benefits through more productive and healthier citizens and increased tourism.

The First Tee of the Coachella Valley - Media Contact: Dustin Smith (775) 722-7181, dsmith@drd.us.com

Desert Recreation District – Media Contact: Noelle Furon, 760-347-3484, nfuron@drd.us.com