

Giving Back to the Game
Hunter Mahan's Dad Talks About Golf, Charity, and Our Military
By Tim Cotroneo



Hunter Mahan

PGA golfer Hunter Mahan is well aware that he's been blessed. The opportunity to earn a handsome living playing the game of golf is not something the 27-year old native of Orange, CA, takes for granted. That is why this sunglasses-wearing member of the 2008 Ryder Cup team gives back every chance he gets.

Mahan is actively involved with three organizations whose causes are dear to his heart. Tee It Up for the Troops, Folds of Honor, and the Alzheimer's Association are organizations to which Mahan feels compelled to give both his time and money.

Tee Times Press caught up with Hunter's Dad, Monte Mahan, to discover why Hunter feels connected to these three particular causes. Monte was pinch-hitting because Hunter was a little busy. On this particular weekend, Hunter was playing in the U.S. Open at Bethpage Black Course in Farmingdale, NY.

"Hunter's connection to Tee It Up for the Troops began in 2008, when he was asked to chair a tournament at Alta Vista Golf Course in Brea, CA. Alta Vista is where Mahan began playing golf as a youngster. (Mahan would go on to become the 1999 USGA Junior Champion.) I represented Hunter at the tournament in Brea. I'm happy to say we were quite successful in raising money for our troops," Monte said.

Hunter got Sundog Eyewear, a company whose product he endorses and wears on the tour, involved in the tournament. In addition, Mahan designated \$50,000 of his Ryder Cup earnings to the Tee It Up for the Troops event. Part of this money went toward a trailer to transport a Solo Rider golf cart. This cart is the perfect option for an amputee to get around 18 holes.

“We raised over \$200,000 at the Alta Vista event. I’m a Viet Nam veteran myself. I remember when I returned home, we weren’t treated very well. Hunter and I want to make sure our current vets from Iraq and Afghanistan are treated better,” Monte said.



Hunter Mahan in a rare sunglass-less moment on the PGA tour.

The Mahan’s appreciation for the sacrifices made by our military is also evidenced in their ties to a foundation that provides scholarships for dependents and spouses of service members that have been killed or disabled during military service. During the past year, Hunter donated \$10,000 to the Folds of Honor Foundation.

Despite a hectic tour schedule, the Oklahoma State All-American makes time for a number of worthy causes. “Hunter recently played a golf event with David Feherty and returning military members. He is also scheduled to play at a military fund raiser hosted by the Congressional Country Club in Bethesda, MD. Personally, I just returned from Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington D.C.. The heart of these young soldiers is just amazing,” Monte said.

Hunter’s involvement with the Alzheimer’s Association has a very personal thread. Hunter’s grandmother died of Alzheimer’s disease. In 2007, Mahan donated \$150,000 in his grandmother’s name to the Alzheimer Association’s Maine Chapter.

For Hunter Mahan, pressure goes with the territory of playing on the PGA Tour before big crowds and television cameras. But, he is quick to recognize that the pressure he endures is nothing compared to the physical and emotional rehab that our returning military and their families must overcome.

On the heels of Father's Day weekend, Monte Mahan couldn't help but reflect and feel good about the life lessons his son has learned. "We're proud to be involved with these organizations and even prouder of our military. We've had a first-hand look at what returning soldiers are going through. We must do everything we can to help them," Monte implored.

www.teeitupforthetroops.com

www.foldsofhonor.org

www.alz.org

www.mahangolf.com