

U of M Student Aaron Johnsen Receives MGCSA Turf Scholarship

Aaron Johnsen, a junior at the University of Minnesota, has been selected as this year's MGCSA Turf Scholarship winner.

A 2003 graduate of Hill-Murray High School, he was named to the National Honor Society as well as the A and B honor rolls every semester and was graduated magna cum laude. He also played for that school's golf team.

Since April, 2004 he has been engaged in golf course maintenance at Somerset Country Club. He previously was a starter and ranger at Eagle Valley Golf Course where "Dave Erickson cultivated my interest in this profession by explaining maintenance practices and giving me responsibility with the maintenance crew. He helped me gain knowledge about the workings of a golf course maintenance program."

Aaron said his father "stimulated my initial interest in golf when I was a child. Then the ability to work within a sport that I love and the opportunity to change the playing field got me interested in this profession."



SCHOLARSHIP WINNER AARON JOHNSEN, center, was the recipient of a 2005 MGCSA Scholarship Award. His plaque was presented at the Scholarship Scramble at Dellwood Hills Golf Club on June 13 by MGCSA Scholarship Chairman Brad Zimmerman, Boulder Pointe GC, left, and Dr. Eric Watkins of the University of Minnesota.

In high school, Aaron graduated Magna Cum Laude and later trained to Level Four in USA Hockey's coaching cer-

tification.

"Aaron is a fine, knowledgeable young man who works hard and is reliable" said James Bade, Superintendent at Somerset Country Club.

"Over my first year and a half at the University of Minnesota, I have worked my hardest to do well in school and to learn the ins and outs of the business," Johnsen said. Through this time he carried a 4.00 GPA.

Johnsen also has joined the Turf Club at the U of M.

The MGCSA Scholarship Fund was originated in 1987. The MGCSA scholarship is an annual grant awarded to candidates who are interested in golf course management as a career, have high scholastic capabilities and have superior performance as an employee of a golf course.

MGCSA Scholarship Committee members include: Brad Zimmerman, Chair; Eric Peters; Jon Almquist; Dale Hiebert; Matt McKinnon; Chris Hoff; John Betchwars; Paul Diegnau, CGCS, and Mike Nelson.

(Editor's Note: More information about the MGCSA Scholarship Fund may be found at www.mgcsa.org.)



CASEY CONLIN, Superintendent at Somerby Golf Club in Byron tees off on the par 3 third hole at this year's MGCSA Scholarship Scramble at Dellwood Hills Golf Club.