Tom and Ann Cousins were awarded “Philanthropists of the Year” by the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) of Atlanta for their steadfast support of the East Lake Foundation, their personal and philanthropic contributions, and their commitment to the community in all aspects of life. The East Lake Foundation has proven that when potential is met, the possibilities are limitless. With your help, we can continue to make East Lake a place of possibility.
Mike McCarley, president of Golf Channel. “It shines a light on the important work the East Lake Foundation has undertaken in its community and the progress it has provided for other communities across America.”

The East Lake Cup also featured the Tom Cousins Award, a new recognition presented to an outstanding male and female golfer who exemplifies the values of the East Lake Foundation while excelling in academics, a strong faith and in her community and has overcome adversity. The first recipients of the Tom Cousins Award were announced Monday evening of the College Football Hall of Fame. Lacri Lando (Boston University) and Alex Burke (University of Idaho), were selected as a pair of industry leaders for their accolades both on and off of the golf course.

“We are thrilled about this partnership and the opportunities it presents to highlight the best of college golf and the work of the East Lake Foundation,” said Tom Cousins, President of East Lake Golf Club. “This partnership with the Golf Channel will help cultivate a relationship between a father and son. Golf introduced me to my father the right way a young boy should be introduced, with patience and understanding, communication, shared stories, and fatherly advice. Golf helped cultivate a relationship between a father and son, until golf became a way of life. It is a game of heart, fun, and pride and it provided for other communities across America.”

Lonardi, of Verona, Italy was named the Big 12 Women’s Golf Scholar Athlete of the Year in 2015, and recorded three top-10 finishes during the 2014-15 season. Away from the course, Lonardi organized a youth caddie program in her hometown of Verona to raise funds and awareness for Down syndrome, a rare form of epilepsy that is resistant to medication and is often fatal to affected individuals early in the infancy.

Burge completed a graduate degree in business management at the University of Minnesota earlier this year, and in 2016 he won the University of Illinois Open. A native of Bloomington, Ill., he grew up with a father who was dead, and as a young boy often found it difficult to develop a strong bond with his dad, until golf became the outlet to fill that void. Playing along with his dad to play a few holes after school in the evening, eventually traveling together to compete in junior golf tournaments, the game of golf transformed into atmosphere for those communication, shared stories, and fatherly advice. Golf helped cultivate a relationship between a father and son. Golf changed my life, and continues to change my life,” Burke says. “Because it introduced me to my father the way a young boy should be introduced, with patience and understanding, communication, shared stories, and fatherly advice. Golf introduced me to my hero.”

“Partnering with East Lake Golf Club and the East Lake Foundation is an outstanding success. This year hosted by PGA TOUR golf professionals Billy Andrade and Steven Creech in the weeks leading to the TOUR Championship by Coca-Cola, the East Lake Invitational is a chance for participants, sports legends and national celebrities, to play and experience a historic East Lake Golf Club in PGA TOUR conditions. Nearly 40 celebrities attended this year, from Roger Clemens to Taylor Hicks to Richard Jenkins. In addition to golf, this two-day event also included a parking party and silent/sound auction with a comedy set by George Lopez and Ben White that brought the crowd to their feet. Participiants and guests also enjoyed culinary delights prepared by East Lake’s executive chefs Baraming and guest chefs Linon Hopkins, Chris Holt, Scott Kerro and Kevin Rutledge. It was announced to promote that the 2015 event raised nearly $400,000 to support the East Lake Foundation. Thanks to everyone who participated and to the sponsors for presenting the sponsorship, the Coca-Cola Cup go to the resident of the East Lake community.” said Daniel Shey, Jr., President of East Lake Foundation.

“The East Lake Invitational was held on September 11th and 12th, Contact Chad Parker, General Manager of the East Lake Golf Club for more information: cparkcaseastlake@gmail.com or 404-273-3723.”

On September 25-27, The First Tee of East Lake’s Aubrey Graves competed in the 2015 Nature Valley First Tee Open at Pebble Beach, Seconday of the PGA Golfers Association, East Lake did a wonderful job of facilitating the event that was televised internationally on Golf Channel. Aubrey was selected by a national panel of judges who evaluated all of the young boys in the county for the event. The First Tee is a program that educates young boys and girls about the game of golf and helps them develop life skills that will benefit them in life. Aubrey Graves has been a participant in the program for several years and has performed exceptionally well in all areas. The First Tee Open at Pebble Beach is a great way for young boys and girls to be exposed to the game of golf and learn the important life skills that will help them succeed. Aubrey Graves is proud to be a part of this great event and will continue to work hard to improve his golf game and life skills.”

“First Tee Open at Pebble Beach”

Aubrey Graves with PGA Golfer Billy Andrade