



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2019**

**CONTACT: ASHLEY HAMILTON**

Phone: 304.391.5000 ext. 205

[ahamilton@wvga.org](mailto:ahamilton@wvga.org) | [www.wvga.org](http://www.wvga.org) | [www.thefirstteewestvirginia.org](http://www.thefirstteewestvirginia.org)

**FIVE LOCALS TO COMPETE FOR \$1,000,000 DURING  
THE FIRST TEE OF WEST VIRGINIA'S MASTERS MIX & MINGLE**



Pictured: Brandon Lynn, member of the Hurricane High School Golf Team. Lynn qualified on Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup> with a shot landed 3" from the hole.



Pictured: Sam O'Dell, reigning West Virginia State Amateur Champion. O'Dell qualified on Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup> with a shot landed at 14" from the hole.

(Teays Valley, WV) – Over the past three days more than 1,200 qualifying shots were taken at Sleepy Hollow Golf Club. At stake is the chance to compete in the \$1,000,000 Shoot-Out scheduled to take place during The First Tee of West Virginia's upcoming Masters Mix & Mingle cocktail party and silent auction, which will be held at the club on Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup> beginning at 4:30pm.

"Each shot cost \$2.00 and amateurs could take as many 85-yard shots as they thought necessary to beat the days competition" says Ashley Hamilton, Director of The First Tee of West Virginia. "The competition was tight. Each day it came down to then end; everybody wants a shot at the million."

In the end, the following amateurs qualified and will be competing in Friday's \$1,000,000 Shoot-Out:

1. Brandon Lynn – Hurricane, WV (3 in.)
2. Sam O'Dell – Hurricane, WV (1 foot, 2 in.)
3. Jonathan Estes – Hurricane, WV (1 foot, 7.5 in.)
4. Joe Rigney – Hurricane, WV (1 foot, 8 in.)
5. Kyle Flanagan – Charleston, WV (1 foot, 8.5 in.)

"While the qualifying period is over for the \$1,000,000 Shoot-Out, tickets are still available for the Masters Mix & Mingle being held on Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup> beginning at 4:30pm" Hamilton added. "Attendees will be treated to Masters Tournament inspired hors d'oeuvres, 2 drink tickets and a silent auction featuring over 50 items including gift baskets donated by local merchants and a golf bag signed by Phil Mickelson. At 6:30pm, the qualifiers will take their final swing during the \$1,000,000 Shoot-Out. If they land their 165-yard shot in the hole, they win \$1,000,000!"

Both the \$1,000,000 Shoot-Out and the Masters Mix & Mingle are being held in conjunction with ongoing fundraising efforts to raise the money needed to bring The First Tee National School Program to all 14 Putnam County Elementary School Physical Education Classes.

Launched in 2004, The First Tee National School Program helps students develop an appreciation for the positive personal and social values associated with golf. Taught during regular Physical Education classes, students engage

in safe, fun lesson activities that lead to motor skill development all while gaining an introduction to a lifelong recreation and health-enhancing activity.

Tickets will be available at the door for \$100 per person | \$185 per couple. All proceeds from the event will go directly toward the purchase of The First Tee National School Program equipment, curriculum and training for the physical educators and a portion of each ticket purchased is tax deductible.

###

**ABOUT THE FIRST TEE OF WEST VIRGINIA:** The First Tee of West Virginia is a state-wide youth development organization operated by the West Virginia Golf Association, focused on introducing the game of golf and its inherent values to young people. On golf courses, in elementary schools and on military installations, The First Tee has helped shape the lives of young people from all walks of life by teaching values like integrity, respect and perseverance. Our mission, supported in part by Smith Land Surveying Inc., Little General Stores and Tri-State Roofing & Sheet Metal Company is to impact the lives of young people by providing educational programs that build character, instill life-enhancing values and promote healthy choices through the game of golf. Through our programs young people discover how skills essential to success on a golf course can also help them flourish in life.