



FEATURED STORY: EVA MOSQUERA

Eva Mosquera, a Mary Reinhart Stackhouse Scholar, may be quiet, but she's tenacious. In 2016, Mosquera got her start as a caddie at Echo Lake Country Club in Westfield.

Her uncle, Juan, brought her to the private country club when she was 14 to begin caddying. Without knowing exactly what caddying entailed, Mosquera was patient, and gradually earned loops, making a name for herself at the club. Not only that, but she was also one of the only females working as a caddie.

"Over time, I felt like my credibility that caddies must make, like showing up at 6:30 a.m., not complaining that the loop isn't happening, or going out at 10:30 a.m., eventually once they saw that I was serious about it, I started getting better loops, started going out with different members and getting to know different people," explained Mosquera.

From a young age, Mosquera has known exactly what she's wanted to do with her life and where she's wanted to attend college, and she has not been reluctant on telling her plans to family, friends and the members of Echo Lake. Now, she's not only a Stackhouse Scholar, but her dreams have come to fruition, as she is now attending Rensselaer Polytechnical Institute (RPI) and studying Aeronautical Engineering.

"I knew probably since I was 12 that I wanted to go into engineering and that I wanted to do something space related," said Mosquera. "Once I came to that decision, I would tell people my plans and that I wanted to go to RPI. I was always a really good student at school and then it just happened."

Brian Stellar, an NJSGA Caddie Scholarship committee member and Echo Lake club representative has had nothing but outstanding experiences with Mosquera and has seen her blossom into the young adult she is now.

"When Eva started caddying, she was pretty quiet. She would go out with her uncle, carry one bag. To this day, she's relatively quiet but if you engage in conversation, you almost immediately find out how brilliant she is," said Stellar. "As she demonstrated at the Caddie Scholarship reception at Galloping Hill, she's not only respectful of the game and her good fortune to have received a scholarship but she also has a terrific sense of humor, she respects the fact that she's attending one of the best schools for engineering and that she's taking advantage of all of it and doing very well."

Daniel Pintauro, Director of Outside Operations conveyed Mosquera's work ethic as second to none. "Eva is always ready to work at anytime. When I give her a call or when she's in the yard, she's always one of the first caddies here. She's always ready to go no matter the time of the day it is."

Mosquera is in the midst of attaining her degree at RPI, and she has seen her experience as a caddie pay dividends not only as a student, but as a female in an industry that is primarily composed of men.

“You have to build credibility, show you’re a reliable person even when there’s not a lot of people there that are like you,” expressed Mosquera. “It’s very important to be sure of yourself. At first, I wasn’t sure of myself, I wasn’t confident, I wouldn’t speak up, but caddying gave me a great practicing place to make my presence stronger.”

The support from Echo Lake and its membership has been remarkable. Along with donations toward the NJSGA foundation and its own caddie program, the membership hosts a caddie breakfast as well as a member versus caddie tournament.

“Our club is very generous,” explained Pintauro. “All of our members are in the NJSGA Caddie Scholarship par club, donating \$100 a year. The membership is always up for taking a junior caddie and showing them the ropes, getting their feet wet, making them feel comfortable and like they’re apart of the Echo Lake family.”

Mosquera has firsthand experience with the kindness Echo Lake members have exhibited.

“The members at Echo Lake have been supportive of me over the years,” said Mosquera. “They’ve listened to my ideas, always give me advice and tell me not to give up on my dreams. One member specifically, Mr. Betancourt, always checks in on me and has helped me put me in contact with family members who have worked in aerospace industry.”

Mosquera has quite a bright future ahead and it’s clear to everyone she’s associated with.

“She’s not only respectful of the game and her good fortune to have received a scholarship, but she also has a terrific sense of humor and she respects the fact that she’s attending one of the best schools for engineering and that she’s taking advantage of all of it and doing very well.” I have no doubt that she will be a tremendous success and most importantly, about our program and caddies, is that once they’re successful in the future, they give back, whether they are members at Echo Lake or not, they give back and that’s probably the best part of it.”



Eva Mosquera, Echo Lake Country Club Caddie Scholar, celebrating with her mother at the annual Caddie Scholarship reception



Echo Lake Country Club

