

Golf's Pied Piper



Lovey Land (View Blog)

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As the Ryder Cup approaches and the notion of country and honor is linked to a golf tournament, of all things, it is worth noting that the true notion of honor in golf is alive and well at Langston Golf Course in the District, thanks to [Jimmy Garvin](#).

Garvin, the general manager at Langston and the president of the Langston Legacy Golf Corp., is the pied piper of golf in the District. He has devoted countless hours to tournaments and training programs at Langston to introduce minority youth to golf and the doors that can open when you play the game. On Friday, Sept. 19, and Saturday, Sept. 20, Langston will be hosting the seventh annual Jimmy Garvin Scholarship Tournament, which raises money to help provide scholarships to minority youths. This fall, four youngsters who were in Garvin's programs have started college under golf scholarships -- Anthony Long at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore; Victor Thomas at the University of South Florida, and Dionne West and Geoffrey Napper at Hampton University. Garvin, a former baseball standout at Howard University under coach Chuck Hinton, does more for the growth of golf in the minority community than anyone in the area, and perhaps throughout the country. He has created partnerships with Special Olympics, First Tee DC, Kids on Course Golf Program and sponsors an Annual No Cost International Golf Tournament, among other events and activities. Garvin is a member of the African-American Golf Hall of Fame. And he is taking his work down south, back to his birthplace in Immokalee, Fla., where he was born and raised. He is establishing a branch of the Jimmy Garvin Legacy Foundation in Southwest Florida, with a program similar to what he does at Langston -- combine golf and education. As he likes to say: "Education is the key. Golf is just the carrot." Garvin will be hosting the first Jimmy Garvin Southwest Florida Scholarship Golf Invitational from Oct. 10-12 at Tiburon Golf Club at the Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort, to raise money for his foundation efforts in Florida.

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