

Legacy of Leadership

Golfer Sherrell Buckley leaves her mark as the consummate student-athlete

BY JEFF ROMANCE

She came to Florida State in the shadow of her father but leaves having created a legacy of her own.

As the daughter of FSU Hall of Famer and two-time All-American cornerback Terrell Buckley, Sherrell Buckley knew that when she came to Florida State in 2013, it would be a challenge to approach her dad's athletic success.

But, as Buckley prepares for graduation this spring, she can reflect on her four years as a member of the FSU women's golf team with pride and feel good about the way in which she has touched countless lives while at Florida State.

"Helping people through community service is probably one of the most important things that we can do at Florida State as student-athletes. The ability to give back to the community that has given us so much and has provided our scholarships is very important to me," Buckley said.

"A lot of student-athletes wouldn't be in school without scholarships, and I think it's important to show the kids in the community that with hard work and good grades you could be me, or even better than me. I love showing kids that they have the opportunity to do anything if they work hard for it."

Florida State women's golf team has long been recognized as a leader in

community service at FSU. The program has received the prestigious Athletic Director's Cup for Community Service in 13 of the past 15 years.

While Buckley is definitely one of the team leaders in organizing community service projects, the entire team takes a great deal of pride in how they give back to the community. During the 2015-2016 academic year, members of the women's golf team combined for more than 370 hours of community service.

"Coach (Amy) Bond definitely instills the importance of community service in us from the first day we get here. I think the golf team has won the community service award almost every year, and it is almost kind of a running joke. It is something we all take a lot of pride in," senior Lydia Gumm said.

One of Buckley's favorite types of community service involves children. During the summer of 2016, she spent two days a week at the North Florida Freedom School where she formed relationships that meant as much to her as they did to the children she was helping.

"I was so fortunate to spend my time this summer with kids of different ages and play with them and teach them things about health and school and responsibility. By the end of the summer, we had formed some amazing bonds and



PHOTO BY ROSS OBLEY

relationships, and I want to go back next year," Buckley said.

Buckley also serves her community as vice president of internal affairs on the FSU Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, organizing and planning community service events for all Seminole student-athletes.

"Being the vice president of SAAC is a perfect role for Sherrell, and it is something that she really enjoys. I have done so many things that I would have never known about or participated in because Sherrell is really passionate about helping others," Gumm said.

Over the past year, Buckley has helped orchestrate clothing drives, feeding the homeless and charity walks. She organized a group of students to sing Christmas carols at a local nursing home this past holiday season. In 2016, Florida State student-athletes volunteered more than 6,000 hours of community service.

"Being a student-athlete at Florida State is something extremely special and



Senior Sherrell Buckley embraces everything Florida State as a stand-out athlete, teammate and student.

"I can't even explain how much I appreciate the opportunity to play the sport that I love, be around people that I love all while representing Florida State as a student-athlete. All of this is possible because of the Seminole Boosters. Thank you!"

"I will remember how privileged I was to never have to worry about anything, and that's all because of the generosity of Seminole Boosters. It makes me want to be as generous with my time and effort because someone else is paying for me to play here, and you can't waste that opportunity. You really have to work harder, think smarter and just be better for that reason."

SHERRELL BUCKLEY

a lot of people have sacrificed before her, whether it be the athletes themselves or the donors who have put up money for us to be successful," Coach Bond said. "Sherrell understands that and really wants to be able to give back to the community. She loves playing with kids and interacting with people.

"I just think she's one of those student-athletes who really appreciates the opportunities she's been given, and she wants to give back as often as she can," Buckley said. "Doing all of the things I do, and with my major, I think that there is not much out there that I can't do. Nothing is going to be too hard for me."

Throughout her four years at Florida State, Buckley has managed her time so as to succeed as an athlete, a community servant and a student. She is an All-ACC Academic Honor Roll student in industrial

and manufacturing engineering.

"I talk to my other friends in my major and they want to know how I manage to wake up at 6:30 a.m. and train, and then go to class and practice. Being a student-athlete has taught me time management and how to organize everything so that I am using all of my time efficiently," Buckley said. "It makes such a difference because making someone's day more special is so much more gratifying to me personally than breaking a record, because eventually, the record is going to be broken."

With all that his daughter has done to make a name for herself in Tallahassee, Terrell Buckley may have to get used to being known as Sherrell's dad. **SB**



"Some of my most favorite memories of golf at Florida State are time with my teammates. We have girls from different countries, and we really enjoy learning from the other's cultures. We have so much fun together and I have really enjoyed getting to know them all individually," Buckley said. "Whenever I get married, these are the girls that I want to come to my wedding."

It's no surprise that Buckley was awarded the Femina Perfecta medallion for the women's golf team at the Champions Beyond the Game Brunch sponsored by Seminole Boosters. The award is given to one woman from each of Florida State's athletic teams. Femina Perfecta translates to "the complete woman" and is awarded to the team member who best embodies the Florida State motto of Vires, Artes, Mores (Strength, Skill, Character).

"I feel like we've left legacies in two different aspects. I would love to have been a two-time All-American in golf, but at the same time I feel it is important to show other student-athletes that you can make time to go visit kids or to make a meal at the homeless shelter," Buckley said. "It makes such a difference because making someone's day more special is so much more gratifying to me personally than breaking a record, because eventually, the record is going to be broken."

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