

Amanda Doherty Excelling During Her First Season As A Seminole

By Vincent Garcia

FSView

February 24, 2017

When one thinks of Florida State freshman athletes who have made an instantaneous impact, names such as Deandre Francois and Jonathan Isaac usually cross one's mind. However, it's only a matter of time until Amanda Doherty becomes a household name.

Coming into the year as a true freshman, the 19-year-old immediately made an impact for the FSU women's golf team. Winning three of their four tournaments this fall, the Seminoles have benefitted from Doherty's consistent, great performances all season long.

"It's not very easy for a freshman to come in on a team full of veterans, but she has done a great job fitting in during her first year," head coach Amy Bond said. "Not only do they have more confidence in her, but she has a lot more confidence in herself."

After shooting 16-over par during the 'Noles' first tournament of the season, the youngster began to grow more comfortable. Over time, Doherty began to find her groove while putting forth strong performances at the Jim West Challenge and Cardinal Cup.

While her composure on the green is quite impressive, the future superstar's good habits date back to her childhood. Growing up in Atlanta, Georgia, Doherty credited her parents for helping her discover a sport that she would go on to love and excel at.

"I started playing golf when I was pretty little," she explained. "Both of my parents played but it was mostly my dad who got me into it."

First learning the game from her father Mike, Doherty would go on to attend multiple kid camps while working on her game with expert coaches and instructors. As time went on, the promising child continued to get better until she played in her first tournament.

"I played in my first tournament when I was eight and started off just learning from my dad," Doherty said. "After that, I had a few different coaches before I eventually ended up just having one coach."

Following her first tournament as a kid, the golfer's love for the sport continued to flourish to an unparalleled level. Upon entering high school, many began to notice the overwhelming passion and talent that she possessed.

Attending The Galloway School, a small private school north of Atlanta, Doherty dominated from the get-go while winning two individual state championships and eventually leading her team to a state title in 2016. As a result of her early high school success, the No. 1 ranked high school golfer in Georgia earned All-State honors in Class 1A by the High School Golf Coaches Association in 2014.

"It was definitely nice to win the state championship during my senior year," Doherty admitted. "Overall, it was a lot of fun and a great experience."

Perhaps more impressive than the former Galloway standout's high school career was the fact that she golfed in two U.S. Women's Amateur Championships. Competing against a much deeper talent pool compared to high school, Doherty appreciated the unique opportunity to compete against some of the nation's best talent.

Upon arrival to Tallahassee, the freshman immediately found her place on the talented Florida State squad. After a slow start, Doherty began to find her groove, especially in the Jim West Challenge, where she shot a career-low score of 69 on the third day.

Moving along into the spring season, the Seminoles recently claimed first place at the Florida State Match-Up, where the future superstar once again shot a 69 during the second day.

Looking ahead, the 'Noles are preparing to compete in upcoming Dickson Tournament, which will begin on Monday. As the season progresses along, Doherty hopes to continue excelling during a fantastic freshman year.

“Her ceiling is really as high as potential goes,” Bond concludes. “If she can stay in the moment and continue to get better, the sky is truly the limit for her.”