

2017 Dorothy Pease Achievement Award

Missy Farr-Kaye



The Dorothy Pease Achievement Award is named for a woman who had a profound and lasting impact on women's golf in Arizona. A leader in women's golf for over 50 years, Dorothy founded the Arizona Junior Girls Championship and the Arizona Senior Women's Championship, published a national women's golf magazine and is credited with helping launch the women's golf program at ASU.

It is fitting that this year's Achievement Award named in Dorothy Pease's honor is being awarded to Phoenix native, Missy Farr-Kaye. Missy, who has been a stand out golfer in Arizona since the age of 10, remembers Dorothy being at the Junior Girls Championship when she played in it 40 years ago and has fond memories of Dorothy's enthusiasm and support for the girls at the event she founded. Since that time, Missy herself has become a woman who has had a profound and lasting impact on women's golf in Arizona.

Missy's first achievements came as a player. After having great success as a junior, she was a model of consistency on the ASU Sun Devil women's golf team from 1985-90, winning the 1986 Trojan-Desert Bruin Classic in her collegiate debut. A second team All Pac-10 selection and two-time Phoenix City champion, she finished in the top 10 in five events in 1989-90 and capped off her collegiate career as a senior by helping Arizona State win the 1990 NCAA Championship. Following her graduation from ASU in 1990 with a bachelor's degree in Organizational Communication, she turned professional and tried her hand on tour, then served as the club professional at the Orange Tree Golf Resort in Scottsdale from 1991-93. Missy regained her amateur status in 1996, winning the Arizona State Amateur Match Play Championship twice, finishing as the runner-up at the 2001 US Public Links Championship and capturing the 2002 Arizona Women's Open as an amateur.

Now, Missy is known as an award winning coach. Missy returned to her Alma mater, where she served as Assistant Coach for 13 years before becoming Head Coach for the ASU Sun Devil Women's golf team in June 2015. Last May, in just her second year as Head Coach, Missy led ASU to another National Championship. It was the eighth time in the program's history they have won the title, which is a record for any NCAA Division I program. Missy shares three of those NCAA titles, as a player (1990), Assistant Coach (2009) and Head Coach (2017). One of her players also captured the NCAA Women's Individual Championship in 2017, and not surprisingly, Missy was named the 2016-17 Women's Golf Coaches Association "National Coach of the Year" for Division I women's collegiate golf.

Missy demands hard work from her players but tempers it with humor, and imparts the need for them to be resilient, all the while nurturing and caring for them. There is no doubt that Missy's star is still on the rise and we can't wait to see what happens next with the ASU Women's Golf Program. We are very proud to recognize Missy Farr-Kaye as the AWGA's 2017 Dorothy Pease Achievement Award winner.