



E-Newsletter | October 2012

Women Golfers

Momentous news occurred in August 2012, when the Augusta National Golf Club FINALLY admitted women. This news, while clearly important to the golf community, has reverberations for many other associations, organizations and clubs where women still do not have a sanctioned presence. While Augusta is albeit a belated event, we still must stop to celebrate Condoleezza Rice, the former secretary of state, and Darla Moore, a South Carolina business executive, who as Augusta's newest members, help to pave the way for women in the 21st century! We decided to profile some historical women golfers to commemorate this occasion: Margaret Abbott, Babe Didrikson Zaharias, and Amy Alcott.



Babe Didrikson Zaharias

In 1900, Margaret Abbott was the first American woman, and the second woman of any nationality, to win an Olympic Gold Medal. She was in Paris to study art and music and she entered the Olympic golf tournament with her mother (who finished eighth). Abbott was from Chicago and was probably the top woman golfer in that city in 1900.

An athlete who excelled at every sport she tried was Babe Didrikson Zaharias. Called the world's greatest athlete of the first half of the 20th century, Zaharias has also been called one of the 10 greatest golfers (male or female) of all time. She is credited with helping to popularize women's golf. Zaharias was named Woman Athlete of the Year by the Associated Press six times (1931,

1945, 1946, 1947, 1950, and 1954). She did not take up golf until after she had gained world fame in track and field as well as All-American status in basketball. She also mastered tennis, played organized baseball and softball and was an expert diver, roller-skater and bowler. Zaharias won two gold medals (javelin and 80 meters hurdles) and one silver medal (high jump) at the 1932 Olympics in Los Angeles.



Amy Alcott

the National Women's Hall of Fame.

Zaharias was one of the six initial inductees into the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) Hall of Fame. In 1947, she had won 17 straight golf titles, including the British Women's Amateur, where she was the first U.S. winner. Her autobiography, *This Life I've Led*, was published in 1955. She has been featured on a U.S. postage stamp and inducted into

Amy Alcott won the Orange Blossom Classic in 1975, at age 18. This was her third tournament after turning pro. With this win, she set the record for the fastest career win. Over her career, Alcott won five major championships and a total of 29 LPGA tour events. She won four events in each of 1979, 1980, and 1984. She has been inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame. Alcott says: "You have to be a perfectionist. You have to hate playing badly more than you love playing well. You have to hate losing more than you love winning." Alcott is on the team that will be designing the golf course for the 2016 Olympics in Rio.

We salute these amazing women who paved the way for us in athletics.

Her Story: A Timeline of the Women Who Changed America
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