

Say Hello to Florida State Golfer Amelia Williamson

By Antwan Staley
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Name: Amelia Williamson

School: Florida State

Sport: Golf

Bio: Williamson is from Norfolk, England, as she grew up in a family full of golfers. Williamson's dad Mark was a former team captain of the Norfolk Men's Golf team and played for nearly 30 years as a former scratch golfer. Williamson's mom Tracey, is also an accomplished scratch golfer and is the multiple winner of the Norfolk County Golf Championships, in addition to seven second-place finishes.

Before attending FSU, Williamson was named the Norwich High School Sports Personality of the Year in 2018. She was also the English Under-18 Schools Golf Champion in 2015, 2016, and 2017, the National Under-16 Schools Golf Champion in 2015, the South East England Schools Championship in 2015 and 2018, along with serving as the English Schools Golf International team captain in 2016 and 2017.

Recently, the Democrat spoke to Williamson about her time at FSU, and the top-10 ranked Seminoles' golf team.

What was it about FSU that appealed to you when you were looking at schools to attend college?

"I would say the big part of it was the coaching staff and kind of my relationship with them. Two of our assistant coaches are English, so I kind of felt like I had a lot in common with them, and we were sort of on the same wavelength. It definitely made me feel more comfortable when I first arrived. I would say the assistant coaches and the coaching staff and the relationship that I had with them were the biggest reasons why I came to FSU?"

How big of a change was it for you to come from England to Tallahassee?

"I would say it was a big thing for me to move away from home. I never really spent much time away from home before. One of the big changes was to balance my school and my golf. Back home, the school structured was very different. I would only be doing eight hours a week. I come here, and I'm doing 20 hours a week, then practice. So it was quite a big jump for me. It was a bit of a shock and something that I wasn't used to. But I would say that was a massive difference when I first came over."

How have things been different for you during the pandemic?

"When I went home, England was actually on lockdown. Golf clubs were shut down, and I wasn't able to do anything for a few months. So, it was almost like an off-season during the summer. We weren't allowed to go out of the house much. So I ended up doing smaller practices in my home and my garden, which was unique and a learning experience. At the same time, it was a new experience, and I never had that before. I never had a golf course be shut down and be able to practice. So, it was a learning experience for me. I became more creative and coming up with ideas and things I could do in small spaces."

How difficult was it for you not being able to play golf for so long?

"I think the gap from competitive golf might have done me some good. I know when I go home in the summer, I normally play tournaments. We come here and play in the fall, and we play in the spring, and we play in the summer. For me, it is continuous. So for me to have a break from competitive golf was almost needed and something that I wanted. It kind of gave me a chance to sit back and work on things and really reflect on everything. So I actually think it was good for me, and I actually did enjoy the little break."

When did you first start playing golf as a kid? Also, did you feel any pressure to play golf because your parents played?

"I first started playing golf when I was 10, which is in comparison to most people was very late. I did other sports before, and I wasn't that committed to golf in the beginning. I was actually committed to skiing. I made the decision

to change sports, but there was no pressure from my mom, my dad, anyone because it was all my decision. It was always me that asked them to take me to the golf course. It was never them telling me, it was always me. It was something that my parents strongly believed in. It had to be me who wanted it, not them. I've been lucky with my parents as they've been able to help me and to teach me things. To have no pressure from them, it is something that I'm lucky to grown up around."

FSU's golf team has gotten off to a great start. What has been the key to that excellent start?

"I think all of us have a really strong connection on and off the golf course. We are such good friends, and we are actually supporting each other a lot and the team and ourselves. This year is the most connected team we've had since I've been here. We are rooting for each other. There's much more of a team family type of vibe. That's nice for us to be able to have, and our teammates are really rooting for each other."

What would winning a championship mean to this team?

"It would be huge. The school has never won an ACC Championship since I've been here. I think we had a really good chance at it during my freshman year, and I feel like we let it slip. It was there for the taking, and we were ready for it, and we didn't take it. Now that we know and have been there before, we can help the freshmen out. I think this year, we want it more than ever. We know we were such a good team my freshman year, and it was taken away from it.