



# The History



*Tom Purtzer, a PGA tour member since 1975, won two collegiate titles as a member of Arizona State's golf teams in the early '70's.*

Arizona State men's coach Randy Lein has often said that in collegiate golf, you don't have to win all the tournaments, just the ones that count.

How about the ONE that counts along with a slew of others.

Arizona State finished 1996 with more tournament wins (six) than any other team in school history, and also won the 1996 NCAA Championship for the second time in school history.

ASU accomplished the feat despite having just one golfer win an individual title that year, as freshman Darren Angel won the 1995-96 Ping Preview. Angel became the first ASU freshman to win a tournament since Phil Mickelson in 1988-89.

If you are looking a winning tradition, check out a couple of simple facts: ASU has won the Pac-10 title four straight years, a conference record, and has finished in the top-10 at the NAAs in each of the past 11 years.

The other piece of the Arizona State University men's golf championship puzzle was put into place on June 9, 1990, when the Sun Devils rallied from a 11-stroke deficit to win the school's first NCAA championship with a two-stroke triumph at Innisbrook Golf Resort in Tarpon Springs, Fla. Phil Mickelson defended his NCAA crown and became the first golfer to win outright medalist honors at the NAAs as a freshman and sophomore.

Arizona State men's golf chronicles reads like a

'Who's Who' of amateur golf. The Sun Devils enter the 1997-98 campaign with a string of 33 consecutive years with at least one All-America golfer. The program has produced U.S. Amateur and U.S. Public Links titlists, PGA event-winners, U.S. Walker Cup players and Ryder Cup team members as well as numerous other prestigious amateur tournament victors.

The storied past began in 1931 with the first ASU golf squad. Four years later, the Sun Devils (then known as the Bulldogs) collected the 1935 Border Conference Championship under the direction of coach Earl Pomeroy.

The decade of the 1950s saw ASU return to consistent winning ways, as ASU claimed three consecutive (1957-59) conference crowns and made its NCAA Championship debut in 1957, finishing fifth. Duff Lawrence, former director of golf at the Karsten Golf Course, was ASU's initial All-American (1957).

One of ASU's finest NCAA outings came in 1961, when the Sun Devils were runner-up, finishing nine strokes behind Purdue on the Boilermakers' home course. That same year, ASU won its fourth Border Conference crown in five years.

Bill Mann became head coach in 1962 and Arizona State became a fixture at the NAAs, as the Sun Devils appeared on a dozen occasions during Mann's 14-year tenure. He led ASU to seven top-10 finishes and began the All-America streak in 1966 with George Boutell, who later returned as ASU head coach (1975-86). Boutell was the country's top amateur in 1965, according to *Golf Digest*.

Among the top players during the '60s were All-America's Boutell, Joe Porter, Mike Morley and John Jackson. Porter and Morley moved onto successful pro careers for more than a decade, while Jackson was the 1969 U.S. Public Links champion.

Current PGA standouts Bob Gilder and Howard Twitty headline the Sun Devil products in the 1970s, as both members of the duo earned in excess of \$1 million and several tour wins during their respective careers. Charlie Gibson and Twitty collected six and five tournament titles, respectively, and rank among the ASU leaders, while Gilder was the '73 WAC champ.

Lee Mikles (1977) and Scott Watkins (1978) nearly became NCAA champs after finishing second at consecutive NAAs. The aforementioned duo, along with Mark Sollenberger and Bill Loeffler, the first of three U.S. Walker Cup golfers to play for the Sun Devils, spotlight some of ASU's top players in the '70s.

ASU entered the Pacific-10 Conference and ended the decade with a blast, when the Sun Devils won the '79 crown.

Boutell, who served as Sun Devil head coach for 11 seasons, tutored 22 All-America's and three conference champs in leading ASU to seven top-10 NCAA finishes, further establishing Arizona State on the national scene.

The PGA's 'new breed' were Sun Devil stars in the early 1980s, as Dan Forsman and Jim Carter

earned All-America honors twice. Forsman tied with teammate Tony Grimes for Pac-10 medalist honors in 1980, and Forsman and Carter each collected medalist honors twice during their collegiate careers.

Carter softened the disappointment of ASU missing the NAAs for the lone time in the past 27 years when he became the Sun Devils' first NCAA champion in 1983. He defeated three golfers on the first playoff hole at San Joaquin Golf Course in Fresno, Calif.

ASU coach Steve Loy came on board during the 1986-87 season, stayed six years and guided 18 All-Americas and 23 All-Pac-10 performers, including three-time NCAA medalist Mickelson. ASU captured Pac-10 titles in 1989 and '90, and finished second in '91 and '92.

Billy Mayfair, ASU's first four-time all-America, was the Sun Devils' marquee golfer during the 1980s. He became the first golfer ever to win both the U.S. Public Links (1986) and U.S. Amateur (1987). The 1987 Haskins Award winner capped his career with a then school-record eight tournament victories. His most successful season was his junior campaign (1986-87) when he won four titles and placed among the top-10 in 12 tournaments.

Other recent standouts include Todd Demsey, Larry Barber, Joey Snyder, Chris Stutts, Scott Johnson, Chris Hanell, Chris Stutts and Per-Ulrik Johansson.



*John Adams was one of ASU's top golfers in the 1970s.*