

OBITUARIES

Ex-Curtis Cup Player, Captain Jane Booth Dies at 70

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By Julia Pine, USGA



Jane Bastanchury Booth played on three victorious USA Curtis Cup Teams and captained the 2000 side to victory in England. (USGA/John Mummert)

Jane Bastanchury Booth, 70, who played on three victorious USA Curtis Cup Teams and led another to victory as its captain in 2000, died on Saturday, June 23. A decorated amateur golfer whose daughter, Kellee, won the 1993 U.S. Girls' Junior at Mesa Verde Country Club in Costa Mesa, Calif., not far from their Orange County residence in Coto de Caza, also was a respected leader in girls' junior golf.

Born in Los Angeles, Calif., on March 31, 1948, Booth began her rise in the amateur game by winning the 1965 California State Junior Girls Championship. Four years later, Booth attended Arizona State University, one of the few schools in the country that fielded a women's golf team prior to the passage of Title IX in 1973. At ASU, Booth won several tournaments and received Women's Collegiate Golf All-American honors in 1969 and 1970. During that time, she also won consecutive Western Women's Golf Association titles in 1969 and 1970. She also was a semifinalist in the 1970 U.S. Women's Amateur.

Booth made the first of three consecutive Curtis Cup appearances in 1970 at Brae Burn Country Club in West Newton, Mass., a Match the USA won, 11½-6½. It was there Booth competed alongside her two best friends, Cindy Hill and Martha Wilkinson (now Kirouac). She not only came out of the weekend with new friendships from around the globe, but the first of three Curtis Cup victories. Two years later at Western Gaiies in Scotland, the USA edged Great Britain and Ireland, 10-8. She closed her Curtis Cup playing career with a 13-5 triumph at San Francisco (Calif.) Golf Club in 1974, and an overall match-play mark of 9-3, including 5-1 in singles.



Jane Booth's victorious 2000 USA Curtis Cup Team featured two future captains and a U.S. Women's Open champ. (USGA/John Mummert)

Booth also represented the USA on three victorious World Amateur Teams in 1968, 1970 and 1972.

In 1980, Booth was inducted into the Arizona State University Sports Hall of Fame. She is also a member of the NCAA Intercollegiate Hall of Fame and Southern California Golf Association Hall of Fame.

From 1985-2011, Booth served on the U.S. Girls' Junior Committee, on which she saw firsthand Kellee claim the 1993 title, defeating Erika Hayashida, 1 up, in the 18-hole final. Kellee would also follow her mother's footsteps by playing on two USA Curtis Cup Teams (1996 and 1998), the latter of which was victorious at The Minikahda Club in Minneapolis, Minn. To this day, Jane and Kellee are the only mother-daughter tandem to have competed in the Curtis Cup Match. Jane later received the USGA's Ike Grainger Award for 25 years of service on the U.S. Girls' Junior Championship Committee.

Booth's 2000 USA Curtis Cup Team at Ganton Golf Club in England became the first to win on foreign soil since 1984, and featured two future USA captains: Carol Semple Thompson (2006 and 2008) and Virginia Derby Grimes (2018) as well as a future U.S. Women's Open champion (Hilary Homeyer Lunke).

Kellee Booth followed her mother's footsteps to Arizona State, where she became a two-time first-team All-American.

Booth is survived by her husband, Mike, and daughter, Kellee. Funeral services are scheduled for Thursday, June 28 at 10 a.m. EDT at the Cathedral of St. Ignatius Loyola in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. Booth and her husband had resided in West Palm Beach, Fla., since 1999.

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