

Adrienne MacLean: From hockey mom to competitive golfer again

By Rich Chere | NJ Advance Media for NJ.com
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For the record, John MacLean has never outplayed his wife, Adrienne, on the golf course. Not once.

"No. I can outdrive her," the former Devils winger and coach told NJ Advance Media.

But...

"We've never been competitive with one another on the golf course," Adrienne confirmed. "He just accepted that I was better and we were fine. He's very happy about that."

No shame there. Adrienne MacLean is a former professional golfer who has regained her amateur status and will compete in the 2015 U.S. Senior Women's Amateur at Hillwood Country Club in Nashville beginning Saturday.

"This is my first senior but probably my 13th or 14th USGA event," Adrienne said. "I'm very excited to actually get a chance to compete again on a national level with my peers."

It was only after their two boys, 18-year-old JC and 16-year-old Kyle, left home to play hockey that Adrienne found the time to resume playing golf competitively.

"She was a hockey mom and she had to drive all over the place with them," John explained. "She wouldn't say she sacrificed, but the boys are in different spots now and she's able to get back and have some fun with the game again competitively. It's fun for her. We're empty nesters now."

JC, a 6-2, 200-pound forward, is playing for the Omaha Lancers of the USHL. Kyle, a 5-11, 180-pound left winger, is playing for the Oshawa Generals in the OHL. Oshawa is where John was playing for the Generals when the [Devils](#) made him the sixth overall pick in the 1983 NHL entry draft.

"I guess with the boys being gone this is kind of my second act," Adrienne suggested. "I'm sort of re-inventing myself from hockey wife and hockey mom to playing golf again. I've always kept my toe in it. Now I'm jumping in and trying to have some fun and play some golf again."

What is her proudest moment as a pro golfer?

"Besides meeting John? Golf is a small world like hockey. You meet a lot of interesting people and some of those people you meet again through golf," she said. "My professional playing

career was somewhat uneventful but it was a great life experience because I got a chance to meet a lot of people. Now I'm circling back and meeting a lot of them again."

Adrienne and John met at Forsgate Country Club in Monroe Township almost 25 years ago.

"I was playing at a tournament down in Forsgate and he was playing in the group behind me," Adrienne recalled. "The man who was running the event had invited a bunch of the Devils to come and play because he was friends with Kenny (Daneyko).

"When John came in, he wanted to know who the girl was playing in front of him. He talked to me that night at the banquet and he asked me for my number. I said, 'I'm on the road for the next six weeks.' When he went back to the table the guys were making fun of him." Daneyko, Andy Brickley and a few others, who had just come from Doug Sulliman's wedding that week in Westchester, N.Y., taunted their teammate.

"They basically said, 'You'll never see that girl again.,' " Adrienne said. "John said, 'No, I'm going to marry that girl.' And here we are 24 years later, almost 25 years later."

John is doing commentary for NHL Network and MSG. Now Adrienne can get back on the golf course and enjoy it, which she had trouble doing as a pro.

"Golfers tend to put a lot of pressure on themselves to perform and I'm so guilty of that," Adrienne said. "This week I just want to have fun and swing away.

"I just started really playing again this summer. I stole some time to work on my game."

John's only regret is that he cannot be in Nashville.

"She had my hockey career and then we had the boys. As they got older, a lot fell on her," he said. "This is, 'I have my two boys finally settled somewhere and I can get back to playing the game competitively again.'

"It's kind of fun for the kids that their mom is a good golfer. We have a nice little foursome now. She's actually the best golfer in the family."