

Marina Alex



Marina Alex built a career by defying odds.

In her case, it was in the sport of golf, first playing against - and beating - boys, and ultimately advancing to an extended career on the LPGA Tour, where she became a tournament champion.

Marina, who graduated from Wayne Hills High School in 2008, was the No. 1 player on the boys team while there.

Girls golf was beginning to emerge as a sport around that time, beginning with the NJSIAA individual state tournament earlier in the decade. Marina was the winner by six strokes as a junior and eight strokes as a senior. She also won the Passaic County co-ed championship in each of those years.

Her success back then wasn't limited to high school. She was runner-up in the New Jersey Women's Amateur as a 15-year old in 2005, and qualified for three USGA Junior Girls Championships.

Her next stop was Vanderbilt University, and the serious jump in competition was hardly an obstacle to further success. Marina became just the second player in Southeastern Conference History to be named SEC Player of the Year. She was a two-time All-America and would later be inducted into the Vanderbilt Athletic Hall of Fame.

She then made the ultimate career bump by qualifying for the LPGA Tour. She played her first event in 2013, and retired at the conclusion of the 2024 season.

Marina had career earnings of \$5 million, and won two championships - the Portland Classic in 2018 and the Palos Verdes Championship in 2022. She was also on the United States team at the Solheim Cup in 2019.

She was a solid performer right up to her retirement, winning \$720,000 during her last season and shooting a 66 in her final round at the Tour Championship, which helped her to a 12th-place finish. She 10 Top 25 tournament finishes that year, including five in the Top 10.

