



Trans-Miss Transcript

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105th Trans-Miss Championships

Wakonda's own proves to be real McCoy



Cont'd on page 3

Greetings

Dear Trans-Miss Supporters,

■ In 1955 golfers used balata-covered golf balls that cut at the slightest miss hit, which was easy to do with forged steel irons with dime-sized sweet spots. Those same balls could fly off-line if the golfer took a really hard swing with his steel-shafted persimmon driver. Putting greens did not have “stimp readings” as the stimpmeter was not yet devised, but they were very slow compared to today’s standard.

■ 1955 was the last year the Trans-Mississippi Championship was played at Wakonda Club in Des Moines, Iowa. Thanks to the urging of our Des Moines director Mike McCoy, the 105th Trans-Miss was conducted at Wakonda Club last month. While the technology of the game’s balls and clubs has changed dramatically and now “turf” is a science with care provided by highly-educated professionals using sophisticated equipment, the Wakonda Club can boast that its golf course remains a superb test in this modern era of graphite and titanium.

■ A new generation of Trans-Miss golfers was treated to the fabulous Wakonda Club hospitality. Our sincere thanks to the members and staff for their attention to detail and making us feel at home. Those ice-cold eucalyptus towels did open the sinuses!

■ It was certainly a memorable occasion to have former PGA Tour Commissioner Deane Beman attend our players’ banquet and hear his remarks. The Wakonda Club honored him in pre-dinner ceremonies at the 18th tee where his winning of the 1963 U.S. Amateur at Wakonda was noted by the unveiling of a special plaque to be placed at the re-named “Beman Bridge” near that tee.

■ Congratulations to Mike McCoy who won the mid-amateur division over a very strong field of players with national reputation and Roger Brown who took the senior title.

■ Prior to the championship the Trans-Miss board of directors met to review and discuss a number of important items. Over the next few months you

will see and hear about some exciting and new developments with the Trans-Miss and the Turf Scholarship Fund. We are already committed to a 40 percent increase in scholarship awards for this year and reaching \$150,000 within three years. A capital campaign is being organized and a new Trans-Miss Scholar Alumni Club is being formed. Both of these endeavors will help to fortify the place of the Trans-Mississippi Golf Association as the premier source of financial assistance to future golf course superintendents.

■ It was a great week in beautiful Des Moines, Iowa. No doubt our return visit will not take another 53 years!

With kindest appreciation,

Hank Wilkinson

Hank Wilkinson, President
Trans-Mississippi Golf Association



■ When it comes to mid-amateur golf and the Trans-Mississippi Golf Association, Des Moines' Mike McCoy is living up to the vanity plates on his SUV – he's the "Real McCoy." The Trans-Miss director, wearing hats of host and Mid-Am competitor, won his second Trans match play championship, this one coming at his home Wakonda Club in Des Moines in July.

■ McCoy, who won the 1995 Iowa Amateur Championship at the course and won the 2000 Trans-Miss Championship at White Bear Yacht Club in White Bear Lake, Minn., defeated Fort Smith, Ark.'s Bryon

Hardscrabble Country Club, suffered double bogey at the first hole, bogeyed the second and then had bogeys at the fifth, sixth and seventh holes. It was just the slow start he wanted to avoid, playing against the local favorite on his home course. "The putter wasn't working today," said Shumate, 38 and in the insurance business. "I had a bad start, missed a short putt on two, one on four. On six I missed another short putt...three-putted that hole. (I) hit some poor chip shots...I don't know. It wasn't as close as the score said."

■ But Shumate rallied with a birdie

made bogey. Both players made birdies with fine approach shots to about three feet at the par-4 12th. But McCoy seized complete control of the match at the par-5 13th, draining a tricky 15-foot birdie putt to go 4 up with just five holes remaining.

■ "When I lost eight and nine I knew momentum had shifted," said McCoy, 45. "But I got on 10 tee and I said, 'Look, I'm 2 up, let's go finish this thing off.' On 12, I drove it down there and only had about 55 yards. I hit a 64 degree wedge and I knew if I just could get it up in the air it was going to stop. I hit it in



Shumate 5 and 4 in the championship match to cap an unforgettable week.

■ "This is sure special, to win against the class of field we had," said McCoy, an insurance agent who grew up caddying at Wakonda. "It's very touching. It's hard to win, so any time you get through all those matches that's pretty neat. Here, clearly it's great to see a lot of friends and members out watching me. That kept me alert...so it was pretty special."

■ McCoy took advantage of a few early mistakes by Shumate in building a four-hole lead early in the match. McCoy was even par through seven holes, including a birdie at the par-5 fifth after a 40-yard pitch shot finished three feet from the flag. Shumate, playing out of

at the par-5 eighth hole and then sunk a long birdie putt at the par-3 ninth to cut the deficit in half.

■ "We got to 10 and I left my putt about three inches short, dead in the heart and he made a good putt there, about a six-footer (for par) I guess," said Shumate, a quarterfinalist last year who had rounds of 71 and 70 to capture a fourth seed at Wakonda. "We go to 11, we both hit bad tee shots, mine was just a little bit worse than his...my ball stays on the front of the green, the pin's in the back and you just can't two-putt that hole. That was pretty much the turning point."

■ McCoy, seeded third for match play, played solid golf over the next five holes and a 20-foot two-putt par on the 11th hole gave him back a three-hole advantage as Shumate

there about two-and-a-half or three feet. Then on 15, I made a beautiful 15 footer that kind of sealed the deal."

■ McCoy's four-iron to about 20 feet set up a two-putt par on the par-3 14th hole and when Shumate was unable to make par from left of the green, the host had his second Trans Miss championship.

■ McCoy downed 10th-seeded Michael Barbosa, a former standout at Georgia Tech, 4 and 3 in the semifinals. McCoy, who had Barbosa as a house guest during the week, closed out the young golfer with a spectacular birdie at the par-5 15th hole.

■ "I hit one of those shots, one in a million...I ripped a three-wood from about 255, 260 and it ended up close to the hole, about four

feet...to make eagle," McCoy said. "You stand there all day and never do that. Mike was a great college player. He's in law school and going to remain an amateur. It's wonderful that he was in the field."

■ Shumate, who went to 18, 19 and 20 holes in winning his first three matches, knocked off golfing buddy Mark Graham of Fort Smith 5 and 3 in their semifinal match. That ended a fine run in the championship for Graham, a 38-year-old player who plays much of his golf at Hardscrabble with Shumate.

Graham, playing in his first Trans, downed top-seeded and defending champion Trent Brown in the second round.

■ "I'm satisfied with it...I putted really well, just didn't really have the iron game that I thought maybe I

Am Division at The Minikahda Club in Minneapolis. This time around, Trent was on the bag as Roger knocked off Laguna Hills, Calif.'s Rich Tolly 5 and 3 to claim the title.

■ "I can't really put it in words, I mean it's really special," the elder Brown said of winning with his son's support. "I went out in the quarters last year so he said, 'Dad, would you caddy for me?' I said 'Trent, I'll do this but I just want to stay out of your way.' I did my dead-level best to do that. I think I got more pleasure out of him winning than even this win."

■ One decision the CEO and chairman of Home National Bank made during championship week provided a major windfall – the 15th seed changed putters.

golf coming in and had him far enough down," said Brown, who plays most of his golf at Flint Hills National in Andover, Kan., and Whisper Rock in Scottsdale, Ariz. "I made some good putts and hit some good shots. I was very pleased."

■ Tolly, who was seeded sixth after stroke play rounds of 74 and 75, turned in his shining moment of the championship match with a tee shot to three feet for birdie at the 168-yard, par-3 14th hole. But Tolly, who's in business with his daughter in promotional product sales, said he knew he was just holding off the inevitable.

■ "I hit one really good shot today, at 14 I hit it to three or four feet and he gave me the putt," said Tolly, playing out of El Niguel Country Club. ■ "That was my highlight of



Byron Shumate

needed to win," said Graham, who works in handicap accessibility and had played just three rounds of competitive golf this year coming into the event. "Going into the match (with Brown) I felt I have good enough game to play with anyone. I know Trent was a real good player and I have a lot of respect for him. He didn't have his best day and I played just good enough to win, made a couple putts and held him off somehow."

Browns claim another title

■ It was role reversal for 2008 Trans Senior Division Match Play champion Roger Brown of Scottsdale, Ariz. Last year, he served as caddy as son Trent won the Mid-

■ "Early in the tournament I was putting with a regular putter and I was really struggling on the greens," Brown said, shooting rounds of 76 and 79 during qualifying. "In the first match, I was really fortunate. I won 2 and 1, but I three-putted five times. So then I went back to the long putter. I got the speeds of the greens better. These greens are very tricky; they're a challenge."

■ In the finals, Brown birdied the par-5 fifth hole and built a three-hole margin. Another birdie at the par-5 eighth and three straight pars gave Brown a commanding five-hole lead walking off the 11th green.

■ "I made some birdies on the front side and had it about three under and then played some solid

the day...but we knew what was going to happen. Roger just played fabulous today. He putted as good as I've ever seen anybody putt. He made pars and he made three or four birdies. I lost to a better man today."

■ After conceding Tolly's birdie, Brown came right back at the par-5 15th, reaching the green in two. His two-putt birdie closed out Tolly, who left his pitch shot third just short of the green.

■ "I drove the ball, the last three or four rounds, very nicely," Brown said. "So I put myself in good opportunity positions and took advantage of them. This is a fairly tight and narrow golf course. I think until you play it a few times you

don't really figure out where to hit it and where not to hit it. I actually got better as the week went along." Brown's week included knocking off defending Senior Division champion Chris Maletis in the second round 2 and 1. The current Trans Four-Ball Senior champion followed that up with a 3 and 2 victory over ninth-seeded Phil Patterson of Oklahoma City in the quarterfinals and beat University of Florida men's golf coach Buddy Alexander, the fourth seed, 5 and 4 in the semifinals.

■ Tolly ousted third-seeded Hunter Nelson of Houston 2 and 1 in the quarterfinals, before downing Forth Worth's Denny Alexander 3 and 1 in their semifinal clash.

■ "I was playing well, a couple over par, which is good for me," Tolly said of his play earlier in championship

Scottsdale, Ariz.

■ Lehman, who fell to Brown in the championship match of last year's Trans Miss at Minikahda Club, put together a pair of two-under 70s on the difficult Wakonda layout and grabbed the second seed for match play.

■ "I came into the tournament playing pretty well and feeling really good about most aspects of my game," said Lehman, 50. "I got into a good rhythm on the first qualifying round on Tuesday and kind of kept it going. Really, I didn't make any bogeys until the 30th hole of qualifying."

■ With a goal of playing solid golf and getting a good seed, McCoy used his course knowledge to shoot four-under 68 in the first round of qualifying and share the lead with

with a pair of lopsided victories and birdied the last hole to edge Des Moines' Joe Palmer 1 up in the round of 16. But the Minnesotan's luck ran out in the quarterfinals with a loss to Michael Barbosa of St. Petersburg, Fla., 2 and 1.

Brown, Maletis fall in round two

■ The second round of match play was unkind to both of the event's defending champions and top seeds. Trent Brown, 2008 Mid-Am champion at The Minikahda Club, fell to Fort Smith, Ark.'s Mark Graham 2 and 1, and 2008 Senior Division champion Chris Maletis fell by the same 2 and 1 score to Brown's father, Roger.

■ "Yesterday I hit more quality shots early and didn't get off to such



Jim Lehman

week. "On a tournament golf course like this, that was very good. I love it...I just hope I get another chance to win the thing at some point. Hopefully I can get in this position again and see how it goes."

McCoy, Lehman share medalist honors at four-under

■ Two of the pre-tournament favorites were right where they wanted to be after two stroke-play qualifying rounds. Plymouth, Minn.'s Jim Lehman and Wakonda's own Mike McCoy finished at four-under 140 for the two rounds and claimed the second and third seeds for match play in the Mid-Am Division. The top seed automatically went to defending champion Trent Brown of

Dan Sullivan of Pasadena, Calif.

McCoy had an even-par 72 in the second round to match Lehman at 140 and received the third seed.

"Wakonda -- I think there is a little bit of local knowledge to it because there are a couple blind shots out there," he said. "You need to put the ball in the right position on the greens. The greens in places have a lot of slope. If you keep the ball in the right position you can stay aggressive and if you get in the wrong spot you've got to be very cautious and defensive. I drove it really nicely in play and hit a lot of greens."

■ Lehman, who represents several PGA Tour players including his brother Tom, opened match play

a rough start," said the younger Brown, playing out of Ponca City (Okla.) Country Club and Flint Hills National in Andover, Kan. "(In the second match) I started off really poorly, hit a lot of poor shots off the tee and that made it tough to get into the greens. I found my swing on the back nine and played pretty well. I just ran out of holes. (Graham) hit a lot of quality shots..."

■ Maletis said he thought not having played under the pressure of the two stroke-play rounds was not a factor in his second-round loss.

■ "I think it's easier because you can start looking at the course from a match-play standpoint," said Maletis, playing out of Portland Golf

Club. "I would take three days of practice for match play and pass on the stroke every time. Today, my problem was the front nine and it was the wind, especially downwind. I did not adjust; I hit it through the green with shots I hit the way I wanted to hit them. I adjusted on the back nine, but I was five down. Against somebody like Roger, that's just too much."

■ For the younger Brown, his father winning the championship on the senior side probably took some of the sting off his second-round defeat but added serving as defending champion was important to him.

Texan holds ace

■ Prosper, Texas's Jim Hays did just that on the par-3 ninth hole during his second-round Senior Division match with Helena, Ark.'s Bev Hargraves. Hays used an eight-iron to ace the 148-yard hole despite a stiff right-to-left breeze that was moving tee shots about 15 yards, he estimated.

■ "It was dead at the hole and it just rolled and went right in," said Hays, 63. "It wasn't a fluke; it was at the hole the whole way."

■ And that accomplishment is not uncommon for Hays in match play. "I've had four of them (in match

money and neither one of them paid off," Hays reports.

■ The 15th-seeded Hays saw his Wakonda run end when he dropped his quarterfinal match to Fort Worth's Denny Alexander 5 and 4.

McCoy, Elliott battle for Iowa

■ Mike McCoy got a measure of Trans-Miss revenge on close friend and fellow West Des Moines resident Gene Elliott in their quarterfinal match with a 2 and 1 victory. Elliott, who plays out of Glen Oaks Country Club, had beaten McCoy in the second round of last year's Trans-Miss.

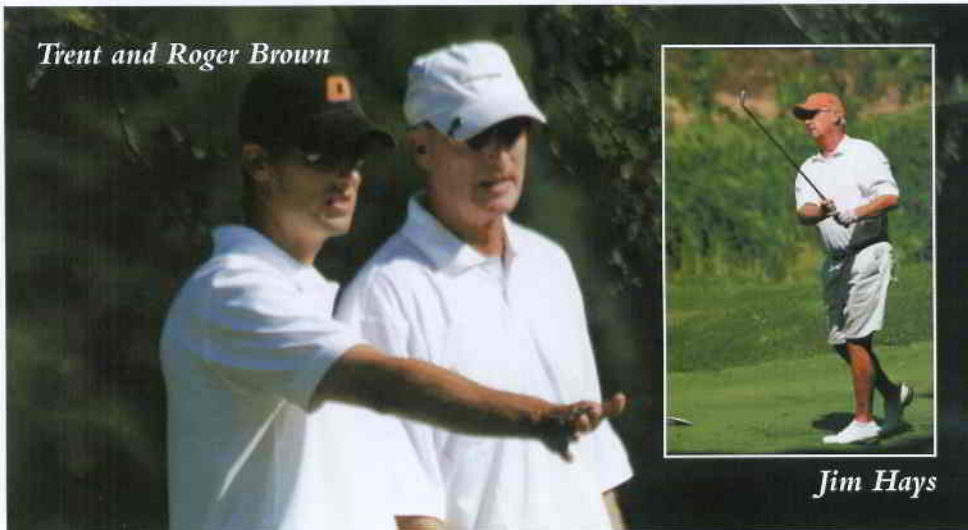
■ "Last year, he beat me in Minneapolis, so turn about is fair," said McCoy. "He's my best friend and we've traveled the whole country together playing amateur golf and I have so much respect for his game. Any time you beat Gene Elliott you've played pretty good because he doesn't give you anything."

■ Elliott, nationally ranked and an accomplished Iowa amateur in his own right, tied the match at the second hole with a tee shot to three feet at the 179-yard par 3. He then birdied Nos. 6, 7 and 8 to take a two-hole lead in the match. But bogeys at the par-3 ninth and the par-4 10th derailed his bid. Elliott said playing McCoy on his home course wasn't a major factor in the match.

■ "I've been playing here since I was a kid too, because a lot of U.S. junior qualifying events were here, state amateurs, U.S. Open qualifying, things like that," said Elliott, 46. "So I've played here a ton. I had four birdies the first eight holes and felt like I was on a roll. I hit a poor chip on (No.) 9 and then a poor drive on 10, and lost my momentum..."

■ On the tricky 11th hole, McCoy hit an approach shot that used the left slope of the green to roll a foot from the cup. The tap-in birdie gave him the lead for good.

■ "We both hit great shots on 11 into the green and you never know what's going to happen on that



■ "It's quite a special deal to be able to win the tournament with all the other past champions that have been on that trophy. It was a great experience this last year and a fun experience up here in Des Moines," he said.

■ With a long background in the golf business, Maletis said he was pleased to participate in the event and help turf students. "I've always believed you should chase your passion and it's nice to know there are scholarships available for the game of golf -- the conditioning of the course and turf care -- for those young gentlemen that that is going to be their life," he said. "It's very important. A lot of kids have trouble pursuing their love just because they don't have the financial wherewithal to do it."

play) and two double eagles," he said.

■ The ace, Hays' eighth of his career, gave him a 1 up lead over second-seeded Hargraves and the Texan would calm back down and go on to a 5 and 4 triumph.

■ "I had just birdied (No.) 8 to go even then made a one there..." he said. "...then shot three-under from there going in."

■ When asked what that sort of shot does to an opponent, straight-shooting Hays had a quick reply...

■ "It @#\$\$% them off," he said. Hays, playing out of Gentle Creek in the north Dallas suburb, recalled he'd made his first hole-in-one about age 35. His last one came at Desert Mountain in Scottsdale, Ariz., while playing with PGA Tour stars Bob Tway and Scott Verplank.

■ "We were playing hole-in-one

Wakonda superintendent hosts Trans *Course preparing for turf changes after championship*

■ The 105th Trans-Mississippi Golf Association Championships were held in July at Wakonda Club in Des Moines, Iowa. The annual event helps the association provide scholarships for students studying turf management and that fact is not lost on John Temme, superintendent at the top-ranked Iowa course.

■ “The business now is so technical compared to say 20 or 30 years ago that it’s very important, if you want to pursue a career in turf management, that you really have to be at a turf school,” said Temme, 37. “The tuition hikes at universities are very substantial compared to when I went through. The more money a student can generate through scholarships like the Trans-Mississippi the better. It’s great for the game of golf.”

Education in the Big 12

■ Temme came into the world of turf management at an early age, taking a golf course job in West Des Moines at the age of 16 “to play free golf.” A history major at the University of Kansas and at the urging of longtime Alvarado Golf Club superintendent Dick Stuntz, Temme returned to Iowa and studied turf at Iowa State.

■ “I spent another two-and-a-half

years after KU at Iowa State to get my turf degree,” Temme says. “I worked at Glen Oaks, a Tom Fazio course in West Des Moines. My first assistant job was back in the Kansas City area at Loch Lloyd Country Club in Belton, (Mo.) in 1997.”

■ With his wife missing their Iowa home, Temme accepted an assistant job at Wakonda in 1998. He moved up to head superintendent in 2000.

Preparing for the Trans

■ With 140 acres of property including many mature oak trees, there is plenty of work for Temme and his team, even when they aren’t prepping for one of the longest running and most prestigious amateur championships in the country. He said the staff kept a fairly regular maintenance routine coming into the event.

■ “We try to have championship conditions every day for our membership,” he says “The only things that we are doing differently are doing a little bit more double-cutting of the greens, hand-raking bunkers daily and letting the rough go.”

■ Wakonda’s turf includes poa greens, bentgrass/poa fairways, Penn cross tees and Kentucky

bluegrass/fescue roughs. The course’s tees and bunkers were renovated from 1998–2002.

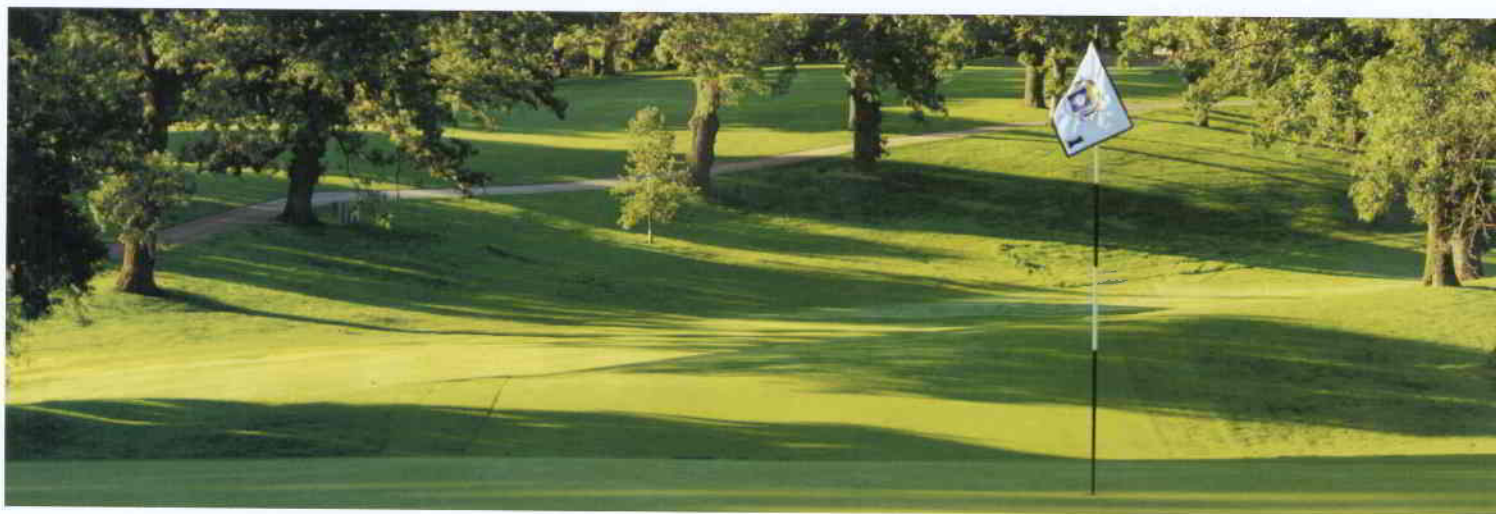
■ “You name it we’ve got it on our greens and collars,” he says.

Time for grass updates

■ For Temme and his staff of two assistants, an irrigation tech/equipment manager and two other full-timers, the Trans-Miss Championship was a last hurrah for much of Wakonda’s turf. The course will be shut down on Aug. 4 and will be resurfaced from its current “mutt” grasses, as Temme likes to call them.

■ “It’s been two years in the making...we are going to re-grass all the greens, all the fairways, the first-cut of rough and green banks...” he says. “The first step is to get a lot of sunlight to our new A-1/A-4 greens and that’s going to require us to take down just a little under 100 of these oak trees. We used ArborCom to do our shade studies. We crossed every T and dotted every I on which trees need to come down because our oak savannah is very important to us. But we needed better conditions on our greens.”

■ Temme says he expects the course to re-open in mid-May 2009.



green – his ends up a foot from the hole and mine's seven or eight feet," Elliott said. "That was the key point in the whole round. He went from two down to one up in a three-hole stretch."

■ Elliott said McCoy won the last match play the two Iowa standouts had played before their two Trans-Miss confrontations. The two have played in numerous golf events together since their days of junior golf in the Hawkeye State.

■ "I remember about four or five years ago, at the Crump Cup at Pine Valley, Mike got me there," he recalled. "Past that I can't remember. We've had a lot of battles through the years in tournaments, but as far as match play, those are the last two I can recall. Probably about the last 14, 15 years we've butted heads almost every tournament."

Players cross Beman Bridge

■ The Wakonda Club and the Trans-Miss Championship had a very special guest on Tuesday of tourney week. Former PGA Tour Commissioner Deane Beman made an appearance at the club. It was the first time Beman had been to



Wakonda since winning the 1963 U.S. Amateur at the course.

■ "Trees have taken over the course," Beman told the Des Moines Register. "It looks so much different."

■ Beman, the PGA Tour's leader from 1974 until 1994, called his week at Wakonda in 1963, "a very special time for me." To honor the achievement, Wakonda officials named a bridge on the 18th hole after the World Golf Hall of Fame inductee.

■ Beman's biggest memory of his 1963 U.S. Amateur victory at the course came in his semifinal match against future Tour star George Archer.

■ "I got a little lucky," Beman told the Register. "I cold shanked it twice. I won one of those holes and halved another. That's always fun in match play."

■ Beman beat Archer, then won his second U.S. Amateur title the next day with a 2 and 1 victory over R.H. Sikes in the 36-hole final. A three-time Walker Cupper and a five-time PGA Tour winner himself, Beman is credited with bringing professional golf to the forefront of televised sports.

■ "Some people would be hard-pressed to believe that bowling had more events on TV, and got more TV money than golf, in 1974," Beman told the Register.

■ Beman also oversaw the development of The Players Championship, the Champions Tour, the Nationwide Tour and the PGA Tour's television production company.

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