

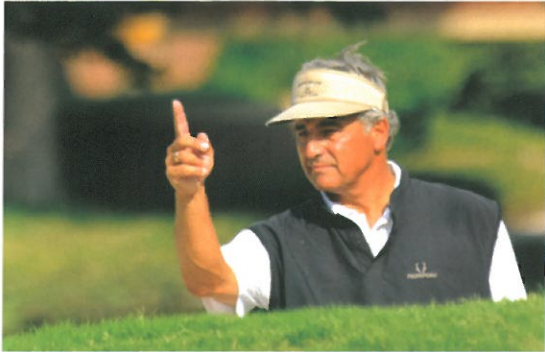


Trans-Miss Transcript

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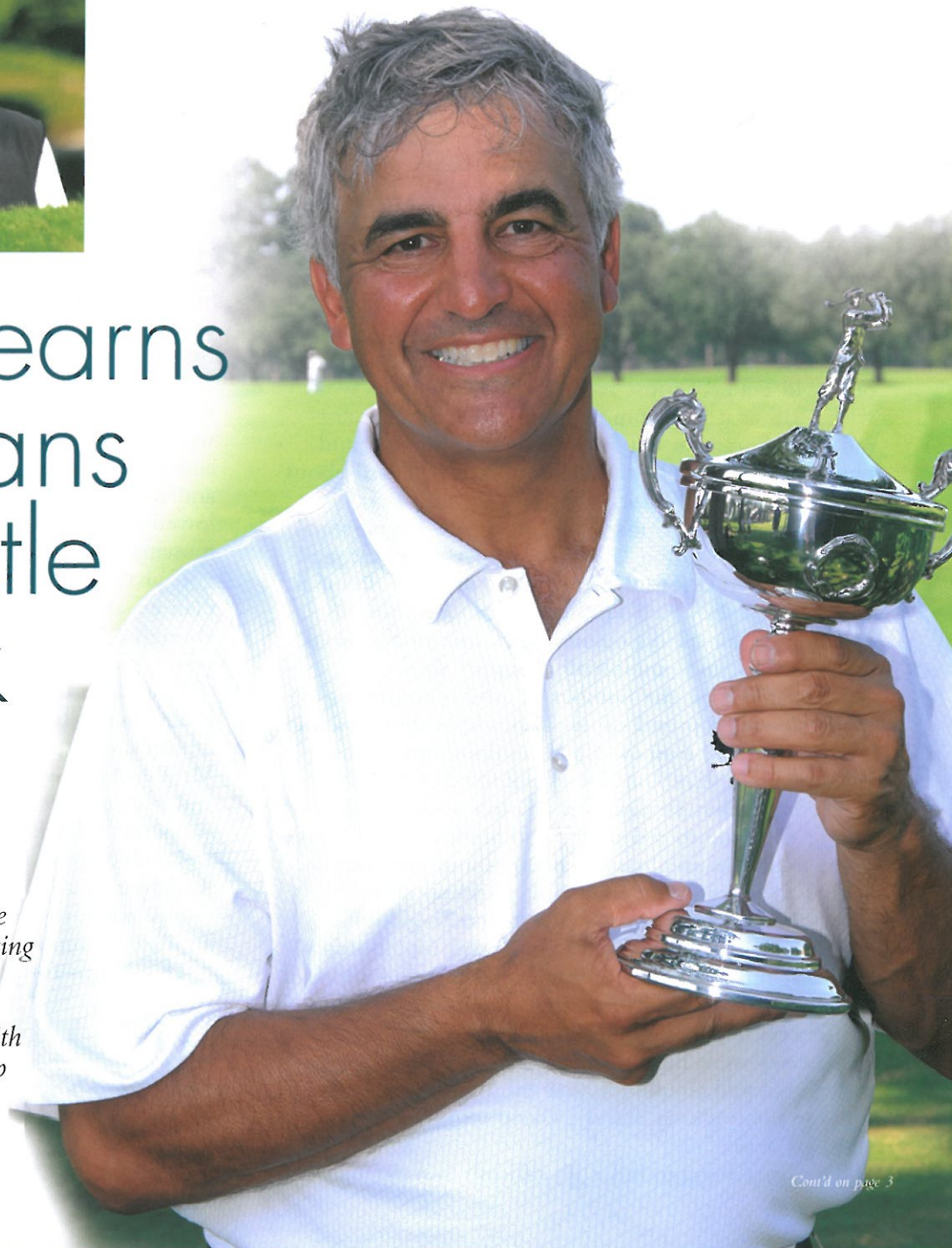
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2011 Trans-Mississippi Senior Championship



Maletis earns fourth Trans Senior title at Brook Hollow

There was little doubt the first Trans-Mississippi Golf Association Senior Championship would provide a worthy title winner. If the challenging Tillinghast-designed Brook Hollow Golf Club course wasn't enough, Mother Nature challenged golfers with a violent thunderstorm championship week, late-May Dallas temperatures in the mid to high 90s much of the event and winds that often blew at more than 30 mph.



Cont'd on page 3

To Trans-Miss Supporters,



As a Texan when I hear the term “The Big D” naturally I think of Dallas. But after a week in The Big D at Brook Hollow Golf Club for the Trans-Miss Senior Championship, I now might think of other terms like

“Damage”, “David” and “Dollars”! Our time there in May showcased some outstanding golf by our senior golfers and some amazing work by our host golf course superintendent and his crew.

The players and our guests were treated to the humorous and often inspiring post-dinner remarks of David Feherty, most recently known for his work with CBS as a golf commentator. The newly naturalized U.S. citizen entertained us with his wit and humor telling golf stories seldom, if ever, heard about legends like Ken Venturi, Tommy Bolt and Ben Hogan. David’s serious side delved into his personal experience of visiting U.S. troops in Afghanistan and Iraq and his relationship with many severely disabled vets. The Troops First Foundation has become his passion and he speaks openly and often of the need to financially and emotionally support these American heroes, the number of which continues to grow. I was so proud of our Trans-Miss directors and some players who made a special donation so the TMGA could give David a check for \$10,500 for The Troops First Foundation. Thank you, David, for taking the time to tell us some things we would not learn from the usual news channels and our best wishes to you in your new Golf Channel show!

At one point during David’s storytelling, you might have thought the clubhouse was under attack! A storm full of lightning, thunder, rain, wind and hail began its cruel assault on Brook Hollow Golf Club and everything out in the open! The softball-sized hail stones were hitting the club’s metal roof with such force and frequency the club’s sound drowned out the microphone leaving David to ask “who did I p__s off?”

The brief barrage left club officials wondering

what damage they might find to the golf course and the players concerned about their cars in the parking lot. David concluded his remarks and everyone went outside to see the damage. It was extensive!

All 18 putting greens and the practice greens had been peppered with hundreds of large hail stones leaving depressions similar to a ball divot, only larger! Even the fairways had depressions. The 75 bunkers were also washed out and would need hand raking to get back in play. Most of us thought our tournament was over. For some of our players, the event was over when they found their cars in the parking lot without windshields or sunroofs. Dings in metal got all of us. Somehow Feherty had the foresight to park his sports car under the portico. That brief storm had dealt quite a blow to our fun!

Ken Small, the golf course superintendent at Brook Hollow for the last 15 years, had seen similar storms and he knew what was in store for him and his crew at 4:00 a.m. the next morning. He was calmly confident we would play golf the next day. By the time of our day-break arrival Ken’s crew had already repaired the damage to the first green and well on their way to repairing all 18 greens. We were amazed to see the damage on the 18th green and then how well the another putting green looked and rolled after manual repair of the depressions followed by rolling in three directions, sanding and then mowing. Simon Buckle, the Brook Hollow head golf professional, along with Ken helped us game plan an afternoon shotgun start that allowed them enough time to repair the damage and still finish our stroke play qualifying rounds on schedule!


The 2011 Trans-Miss Senior Championship will be remembered for years to come. David Feherty was an awesome speaker with a fun and serious message. Mother Nature gave us her best shot, but Ken Small and his guys responded like the pros on a mission of mercy. The Brook Hollow members and staff welcomed us and took great care of us for six days. And best of all, our senior golfers enjoyed the competition, the fellowship and the challenge of an historic venue.

Thank you for your support of the Trans-Miss

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Coon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Richard Coon, TMGA President



When all was said and done, accomplished Portland, Ore. golfer Chris Maletis walked away with his fourth Trans title. Maletis, who survived two rounds of stroke-play qualifying and five matches in the heat and wind – including a pair of matches on each of Thursday and Friday of championship week, downed Parker, Colo.'s Robert Polk 2 and 1 in the final match on Saturday morning.



In winning his fourth Trans-Miss Senior title, Chris Maletis, who also owns and operates a golf course, had high praise for the response of the Brook Hollow superintendent and crew to the Tuesday night hail storm. Read the full story at www.trans-miss.com.

“Where I feel honored is a tournament like the Trans-Miss, as old as it is, to have your name on the trophy once is an honor. Four times is beyond what I ever would have comprehended my ability to do,” said a humbled Maletis, 62. “The great thing about the Trans-Miss is that it is played on some of the finest and usually older, traditional courses. It’s near and dear to me and I love playing it.”

Maletis works long days for fourth title

The sixth-seeded Maletis faced a hot golfer in No. 25 Polk in their 18-hole championship as another warm, windy day dawned in Dallas. Polk, the owner of Polk Majestic Travel Group in Denver, had knocked off the championship’s eight and nine seeds before downing No. 1 John Grace of Fort Worth 2 and 1 in a quarterfinal match. The former University of Mississippi golfer then ousted No. 5 Mark Sollenberger of Scottsdale, Ariz., in the semifinals 3 and 1.

Maletis and Polk settled into a grind-it-out match where neither player ever had more than a one-hole advantage. Polk, 55, enjoyed that margin twice on the front nine, once after knocking his tee shot to less than 2 feet at the par-3 fourth hole for birdie and then again at No. 9 when Maletis got into trouble off the tee and eventually conceded Polk’s 12-footer for birdie.

Maletis won No. 11 with a par and Polk found trouble off the tee at No. 12 which led to Maletis’s conceded birdie from about 8 feet giving the Oregon golfer his first lead of the day. Polk made pars at Nos. 13 and 14 and that got him the lead back as Maletis got into tree

trouble. But Polk’s unexpected three-putt bogey at the par-5 15th, after he’d found a greenside bunker in two, squared the match yet again.

“Today, I kind of relied on my short game,” Maletis said. “Then I had those two holes in a row where I was stymied...that usually doesn’t happen. But I was just kind of dead behind trees. That usually leads to bogey. I got a big break on 15 because I was one down. He missed that short putt. When you’re finishing, being even is a lot better than being one down.”

Maletis then pulled 5-iron on the 195-yard par-3 16th hole and drilled his tee shot to about 25 feet. Polk followed with another fine iron shot, his to about 12 feet. Maletis, buoyed by the good read he got from his Brook Hollow caddie, drained the long birdie putt to grab a one-hole lead with just two to play.

“I hit a really good shot on 16 then he turns around and hits a great shot,” Maletis recalled. “I had a local caddie, Eddie. He gave me the read and we both agreed. I saw it and I made the putt.”

As he’d done all week, Polk bombed driver down the shortish par-4 17th and found a greenside bunker. Maletis chose hybrid off the tee and reached the surface in two shots. His par clinched the match 2 and 1 when Polk suffered another unexpected three-putt bogey.

“Today I struggled with the wind...I just could never get real comfortable or confident,” said Polk, who plays at Colorado Golf Club in Parker. “It never dawned on me that he might make (the putt on No. 16)...he made a great putt and I didn’t hit a very good putt. On 17, I decided to see if I could knock it on the green and just murdered it. I had it in the greenside bunker; hit a poor bunker shot then a poor first putt

and a poor second putt and that was that.”

For Maletis, the championship match was the only one of his five that did not reach the 18th hole. He defeated Herb Fisher of The Woodlands, Texas, 1 up in the first round and had to go 20 holes before subduing Bill Brammer of Rancho Santa Fe, Calif., in the second. The former beer distributor then knocked off No. 3 Billy McBee III 1 up in the quarterfinals before ousting No. 2 Lee Sandlin of Dallas 1 up in the semifinals.

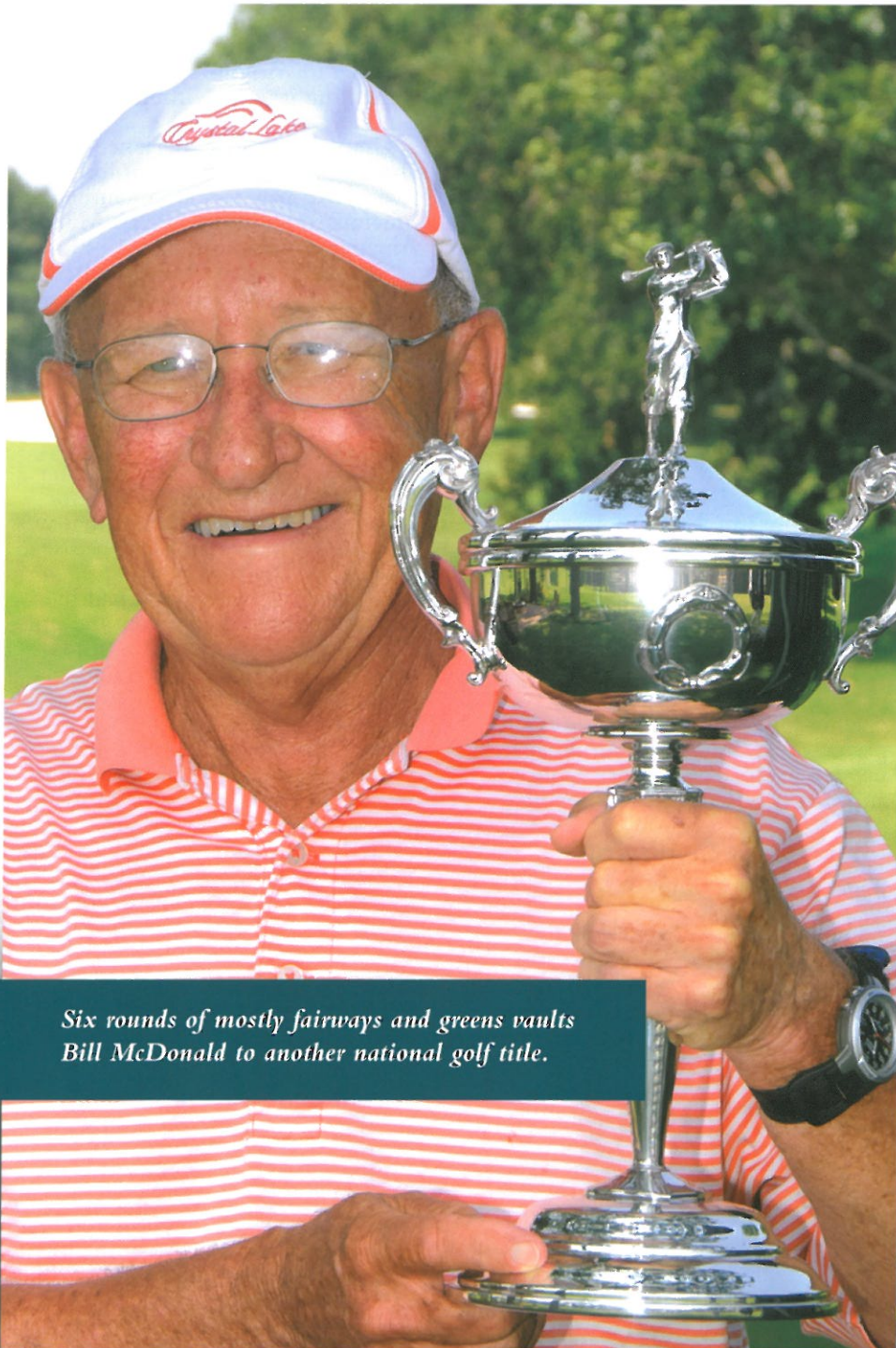
“We were playing so much golf I started losing my rhythm and tempo,” Maletis admitted. “And the wind can do that to you. You don’t have time to find it. After the morning match you’re going into the afternoon match and then you’re too tired to even practice. I just tell myself the other guy is going through the same thing. That’s the great thing about match play.”

The 25th-seeded Polk had to dispatch higher seeds all four of his matches in reaching the championship. He opened with a 1 up victory over No. 8 Gary Kirwan of McKinney, Texas, and beat No. 9 Tom Doughtie of Amarillo 2 up in the round of 16. Polk then beat top-seeded Grace before ousting Sollenberger in the semifinals.

“I kind of made it into match play by the skin of my teeth. Then I kind of found something late in my first match,” Polk explained. “I was one down standing on 17 tee of my first match then won the last two holes. That felt good. Then I played extremely well the next two matches. I was under par both matches and just hit it really, really good. Yesterday afternoon, when the wind blew I struggled. But Mark struggled more than I did so I managed to win.”



Former Pub Links Champion wins Super Senior division



Six rounds of mostly fairways and greens vaults Bill McDonald to another national golf title.

Bill McDonald, a longtime Michigan resident who has returned to his native Topeka, Kan., edged his way into the 16-player bracket for match play and then strung together four match victories to claim the Super Senior division title at the Senior Championship at Brook Hollow.

It was a well-earned triumph for McDonald, who won the 1964 USGA's Public Links Championship in Minneapolis, and an important one to him as the Trans supports turf management students.

"This is great because now I'm 67 and I play in some super senior tournaments around the country," said 15th-seeded McDonald, who beat Dallas' Donny Anderson 7 and 6 in the championship match. "One of the big rewards and benefits of this organization is the help it provides for the students who are going to college. It's terrific."

McDonald, 67, said he brought an unexpected bounce to the first tee for his championship match with Anderson after a grueling day of quarterfinal and semifinal matches in the heat and wind the previous day.

"I was surprised I had some energy going today, although I hit a few bad ones," McDonald said. "It was windy again so I was very pleased with the way I played today. Donny had a hard day today, but anybody can have a hard day when it's this breezy."



McDonald needed just one birdie, that coming at the par-3 fourth hole, in building a big lead against the former professional football player and ending the championship match on the 12th hole.

"I just tried to swing a little more gracefully, a little easier because of the wind," McDonald explained. "And it worked well, especially off the tee shots. I only had one real bad tee shot, off No. 2. All the other ones were in the fairway."

For Anderson, who spent several seasons in the intense pressure of the NFL playing running back for the Green Bay Packers and St. Louis Cardinals, a championship tilt in match play golf was a whole different matter.

"This is my fourth tournament that I've played in since I got my amateur status back," said Anderson, 68 and playing out of Royal Oaks.

"I just don't have any experience in match play...now I have some. The competitive part of golf is what I really enjoy. If you can get into that zone, it's like professional football. It was fun to play guys that have great (golf) pedigrees."

McDonald, who was a school teacher in Michigan while building an impressive amateur golf resume, had a first-round 75 but slipped to 85 in the second round and settled for a 15th seed in the Super Senior bracket. He upended No. 2 seed Karl Stewart of Huntington Beach, Calif., 2 and 1 in the first round before downing No. 7 Pat Hare of Fort Worth in the quarterfinals. The former All-American golfer at Topeka's Washburn University then outlasted San Diego's James Saivar 1 up in the semifinals.

"The first day was good, because it was windy, and I shot 75. The next day my rhythm was not right and

I got in some very awkward places...I think I had four double bogeys. It didn't go well and I just barely made match play," said McDonald, playing in his third Trans event. "After that it started to go better. I kind of slowed my rhythm down a little bit. Everybody was starting to get tired. Especially yesterday afternoon...my legs went and I hit some very wild shots."

Anderson, who enjoyed a successful sales career when his football days ended and played professionally on the Celebrity Golf Tour, had rounds of 81-74 in the stroke-play qualifying and earned a No. 5 seed. He opened match play with a 1 up win over No. 12 Don Addington of Dallas and downed Trans veteran Bob Fouke of Broken Arrow, Okla., in the quarterfinals. Anderson, playing in his first Trans, then bounced top-seeded Jim Hays of Prosper, Texas, 3 and 2 in the semifinals before running into McDonald.

"I went in, had a sandwich, took my shoes off and put my legs up on a stool and rested for about 20 minutes, and then I went out and said 'Okay, now I'm going to go compete,'" Anderson said of his match against Hays, champion of the Trans Four-Ball senior division at Cherry Hills in 2009. "They're all smart and they all have (match play) experience which I do not. When I ended up playing Jim, I didn't think about playing him. I knew he was a good player. I just thought about what I needed to do. I hit my driver well and that is one of the keys for me."

Grace leads qualifying at even par

After a band of violent storms roared through the Dallas area the evening after the first round of stroke-play qualifying, the second round had to be delayed to an afternoon shotgun start as the Brook Hollow maintenance staff repaired/prepared the course. When all score cards had been returned Tuesday evening, the cut

for match play in the Championship division came at 17-over 159 as four entrants played off for the final three spots in match play.

Fort Worth's John Grace had the round of the day. His second straight even-par 71, and his 142 total earned the former PGA Senior Tour player medalist honors.

"It's always nice to win something and I played well," said Grace, 63 and a retired real estate investor. "It means a lot. Anytime you pick up something it's good...being medalist is good."

Grace used vast experience at challenging Brook Hollow in his two stroke-play rounds, including a previous Trans and a USGA Mid-Amateur Championship.

"It's really a good test of golf," he said. "I hit it pretty solid and kept it in play. I missed a few putts, but you're going to do that on these greens so I wasn't too unhappy. I made a few too."

The only sub-70 round of qualifying belonged to Lee Sandlin of Dallas, who fired a 69 to lead after the first round. Sandlin settled for 76 in the second round but that was still good enough for the No. 2 seed at 145.

"I putted very well and had five birdies...when I was below the hole I made aggressive putts and took what the course gave me," said Sandlin, 57 and a manufacturer's rep in the telecom industry. "I was lucky...the last four or five holes the wind kicked up. So the majority of my round the wind wasn't blowing like it was today. Today I three-putted twice from about 15 feet. You just have to be patient on these greens. If you're above the hole you just have to try to lag it close. I got a little impatient on the back and just didn't strike the ball as well."

For eventual champion Chris Maletis qualifying turned into rounds of 73 and 74 the two days. The 147 score tied him for third and he settled for a sixth seed before making his match-play run to the championship.

"Really, I came here and I had been playing well all year. Stroke play didn't go too badly...I had a few miss-clubs," said Maletis, who'd won Trans senior championships in 2004 at La Jolla Country Club, 2005 at Prairie Dunes Country Club and 2007 at The Minikahda Club. "I finished tied for third so it went fairly well...then the winds started."





*Ken Small,
Brook Hollow GC
Superintendent*



James Saivar



Mark Sollenberger



Donny Anderson



Robert Polk



John Grace



Lee Sandlin



Jim Hays



Billy McBee III