



# THE **TRANSCRIPT**

## PREVIEW



Bayonet Black Horse,  
Bayonet Course

# Bayonet Golf Course to Host 37th Four-Ball Championship

by Luke Hendry

**SEASIDE** – Twelve miles northeast of Monterey Peninsula’s golf mecca lies Bayonet-Black Horse Golf Club. Once a U.S. Army fort, the spectacular 36-hole facility is now one of the game’s best public golf destinations. From Sept. 11-14, competitors in the 37th Trans-Mississippi Four-Ball Championship will storm history-rich Bayonet Golf Course in search of red numbers.

The emerald landscape, stretching between tall cypress and California oaks, embodies a revered golf and military history while capturing scenic views of one of the most iconic peninsulas in the continental U.S.

“We are excited to host such a great amateur event,” said Mike Spiller, Bayonet-Black Horse golf professional. “Getting an event like the Trans-Miss Four-Ball is another great notch under our belt.”

The Trans-Mississippi Four-Ball, an annual team best-ball championship, is scheduled for 54 holes of stroke play with three divisions: Championship (for mid-amateurs), Senior (55 and older) and Super Senior (65 and older). Each division plays from separate tees and yardages and a champion will be crowned in all three divisions. At the

conclusion of 36 holes, the field will be cut to the low 48 teams and ties, with a pro-rated representation from each division.

The opportunity to play in this year’s Trans-Miss Four-Ball at one of golf’s most spectacular venues is still available. Limited spots remain in each division. Registration closes Aug. 30 at 5 p.m. (CST).

In 1954, Gen. Robert B. McClure developed Bayonet Golf Course on the U.S. Army training facility, Fort Ord. Gen. McClure, the Commanding Officer of the post at the time, named the golf course after the Army’s 7th Infantry Division (the first major unit to occupy Fort Ord nicknamed the “Bayonet Division”).

Gen. McClure, a left-handed golfer, advantageously designed the course to suit his game. His intent is evident through a series of sharp doglegs left (holes 11-15) spaced only by a long par-3 widely known as “Combat Corner.” The 7,104-yard track features tight landing areas and narrow playing corridors. The uphill, 476-yard, par-4 ninth hole exemplifies the Bayonet experience: a challenging layout with stunning views of Monterey Bay.

In 2008, Gene Bates, an award-winning golf course architect,

renovated Bayonet. The project expanded views of the bay while retaining Bayonet’s classic, tree-lined character. Bates repositioned bunkers and reshaped green complexes to usher in golf’s new era.

“The fairway bunkering was set at the right distance,” Spiller said. “Every bunker is strategically placed and are relevant from each set of tees.”

Bayonet is no stranger to hosting premier golf championships. The storied course hosted the 45th PGA Professional National Championship in 2012 and the 26th Senior PGA Professional National Championship in 2015. Bayonet is a top-20 course in California according to Golfweek and ranked as one of GolfNow.com’s top-100 courses in the country.

“We want to grow the reputation of the course and I think partnering with an event like the Trans-Miss is a good way to grow that and get people out to the beautiful Monterey Peninsula,” Spiller said.

The 37th Trans-Mississippi Four-Ball Championship begins Tuesday, Sept. 12 at 8 a.m. (PST). For more information pertaining to the championship and/or to register, please [click here](#).



# TRANSMISS

# Four-Ball Championship

Save the Date – September 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
Bayonet Black Horse Golf Club – Seaside, CA



*The 37<sup>th</sup> Trans-Mississippi Four-Ball Championship will be held September 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at Bayonet Black Horse - Bayonet Course in Seaside, CA. The course designed by General Robert McClure, renovated by Gene Bates, will play host to the top mid-amateur & senior amateur teams in the country.*

*Registration for the 2017 Championship will open online Tuesday, June 20<sup>th</sup> at 9 am (CST)*

## ELIGIBILITY

Entries are open to male amateur golfers who have reached their 25<sup>th</sup> birthday on or before September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Teams must have a combined USGA handicap index of 10.0 or less. The Senior division is open to male amateur golfers age 55 or older prior to the first round of competition and have a team combined index of 14.0 or less. The Super Senior division is open to male amateur golfers age 65 or older prior to the first round of competition and have a team combined index of 16.0 or less. Team members must be a member of a Trans-Miss Member Club or contribute an annual donation (\$100) to the Turf Scholarship Fund.

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Monday, September 11 <sup>th</sup>	Practice Round & Player Reception
Tuesday, September 12 <sup>th</sup>	Round 1
Wednesday, September 13 <sup>th</sup>	Round 2
Thursday, September 14 <sup>th</sup>	Round 3 & Awards

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

The entry fee for the Trans-Miss Four-Ball Championship is \$1,600 per team. The entry fee includes greens, cart, and range fees for the practice and all championship rounds. The entry fee also includes championship gifts, breakfast and lunch during all three championship rounds, and food/beverage at the Player Welcome Reception.

## ABOUT THE COURSE

Black Horse, a 7,024-yard, par-72 layout, features sweeping vistas of the Pacific and is highlighted by fescue-framed fairways, bunkers with distinctive, serrated edges and slickly-contoured greens. The par-3 15<sup>th</sup>, created during the renovation, faces the bay and is sure to emerge as one of the great holes on the Peninsula.

RECAP



Gene Elliott

## Iowa's Gene Elliott Wins 2017 Trans-Miss Senior

**INDIAN WELLS, Calif.** – Gene Elliott added another piece of shiny hardware to his trophy case Thursday when he cruised to a four-shot Trans-Mississippi Senior Championship victory at picturesque Eldorado Country Club.

Holding a five-shot lead headed into the final round, Elliott shot a businessman-like even-par 71 to get the job done. The 1998 Porter Cup champion and two-time Iowa State Amateur winner mastered Eldorado's firm and severely sloped Bermuda TiffDwarf greens with only one three-putt in 54 holes. Paced by a second round 66, Elliott finished the championship at 4-under-par 209. It's his second Trans-Miss Golf Association title; in 2012 he won the Four-Ball with fellow Iowan and Trans-Miss Director Mike McCoy.

Mark Miller from Antioch won the Super Senior Division (ages 65 and older). Steady play and incremental scoring improvements helped him take a one-shot victory over two Texans. Fort Worth's Jody Vasquez and Gary Kirwan of McKinney tied for second place. Miller shot rounds of 76-74-73 to post 10-over 223. In the Legends Division, Jim Martin of Dallas withstood a six-hole playoff to secure his third consecutive title. He and Michael Mahoney from La Jolla, Calif., tied at 8-over 221 before Martin sank a four-foot birdie on the sixth extra hole.

Elliott, winner of the prestigious Crump Cup in 2009 and Coleman Invitational in 2007 and '09, gave much of the credit for his victory at Eldorado to his wife Dalena. With inclement weather plaguing Des Moines prior to the Trans-



Eldorado Country Club

Miss Senior, Elliott hadn't played much golf. He managed to get out once, though. A late Saturday afternoon nine-hole loop with Dalena made all the difference, he said.

"I kind of figured out some things that round," he said. "I changed my ball position and alignment. I think it helped a lot."

The amount of good vibes radiating for Elliott at Eldorado didn't hurt, either. For starters, the club's Director of Golf Terry Beardsley has known Elliott for 30 years. Beardsley knew him from his days as the head pro at Wakonda Club in Des Moines. When Glen Oaks Country Club opened across town in 1992, Beardsley became the head pro there. That's Elliott home club to this day.

"First of all, Gene is the nicest guy," said Beardsley, who

RECAP

has worked at Eldorado since 1997. "He's a class act. I hadn't seen him in 20 years. But, yes, I was rooting for him."

Elliott also is good friends with Eldorado member Chris Maletis, a five-time Trans-Miss winner and ab Association Director. Elliott stayed with Maletis in his home on the back nine of the Tom Fazio-designed course.

Finally, Elliott takes putting lessons from Chris Foley, a North Dakota-based instructor who spends one week a month in Palm Springs to teach Eldorado members. Did all of that karmic energy provide Elliott an advantage over the field at the Trans-Miss Senior?

"No way," he said.

"There are not a lot of advantages in golf," he said. "You have to go out there and play."

Along with Miller and Martin, Elliott did it the best this week. Miller said the key to his victory was his attitude and lag-putting. He made six birdies in the final round.

"I try to tell myself to keep playing no matter what," he said. "Truly, I'm shocked my score was good enough to win. I got lucky."

Martin indicated the same after he outdueled Mahoney in the Legends Division six-hole playoff.

"It was one of those things where we both kept it in play off the tee," Martin said. "I hit some greens, and he kept

getting up and down. He's a very good player, and I was just fortunate to hang in there."

Mahoney started the final round three shots behind Martin, the 36-hole leader. Mahoney's 2-over 73 forced extra holes after Martin shot a final round 5-over 76. Both competitors finished in regulation at 8-over 221.

Martin, ever the gentleman, refused to gloat after securing his much-wanted third straight Trans-Miss Senior title in the Legends Division. He only offered, "Yes, it does," when asked if felt good.

The Trans-Miss staff extends its most sincere gratitude to the Eldorado Country Club staff and members for their generosity and hospitality throughout the championship week. Special thanks to Director of Golf Terry Beardsley and his hard-working golf staff; Superintendent Craig Ellis, Assistant Superintendents Cesar Montez and Jose Verduzco and the entire grounds crew, who kept the golf course in immaculate shape; and Director of Events Brooke Hardy Stuessy for all her efforts.

All the competitors and the entire Trans-Miss Golf Association thoroughly enjoyed their time at this historic club. Home to 34th President Dwight Eisenhower and host of the 1957 Ryder Cup, Eldorado made for a truly outstanding host venue for the 2017 Trans-Miss Senior Amateur Championship.



Chris Maletis, Tournament Co-Chairman (left) and Super Senior Division Champion Mark Miller.



Legends Division Champion Jim Martin (right) with Tournament Co-Chairman, Chris Maletis.

## FEATURE

# Trans-Miss Perpetuates A Rich Golf Tradition

by John Steinbreder, *Global Golf Post* published July 10, 2017



## TRANSMISS

America was a golf backwater at the turn of the 20th century and only just becoming acquainted with the royal and ancient game. But as people got to know the sport and fell hard for the challenges and pleasures it provided, they slowly but surely made their homeland a hotbed for it. All across the nation, they constructed courses and made them the recreational centerpieces of clubs that were established around them, often hiring immigrant golf professionals from the Old World to teach the members how to play the game – and play it by the rules. Those early evangelists also marveled at the competition golf engendered and started to organize groups of golfers and clubs with the express purpose of staging tournaments for their mutual enjoyment.

One of the first of those was the Trans-Mississippi Golf Association, which officially came into being in the summer of 1901. The seeds for its founding were sown by golfers of the St. Joseph Country Club of Missouri and the Omaha Country Club in Nebraska, who determined after they had faced off in a friendly challenge match that it would be fun to arrange similar competitions down the road. Soon after, they joined with golfers from 13 other clubs to birth that organization, choosing as its name a term that was used in the 19th century to describe the geographic area west of the Big River. And that fall, they staged for the first time a tournament for amateur players that is today best known as the Trans-Miss.

This year marks the 114th playing of the Trans-Mississippi Amateur, traditionally held the week after the Fourth of July, and the 72-hole stroke-play event is regarded as one of the top amateur events in the country. The strength of the field that today is made up mostly of college players attests to that. And so does the roster of past champions that includes some of the biggest names in the game. Frank Stranahan once captured the Trans-Miss, and so did Deane Beman, the former PGA Tour commissioner and U.S. Amateur winner. Jack Nicklaus took the Trans-Miss twice, in 1958 and 1959, and Charles Coe prevailed in it multiple times as well. Ben Crenshaw, George Archer, Gary Koch and Bob Tway also have their names etched on the trophy that goes to the Trans-Miss victor. More recently, its winners have included Mike

McCoy, the Iowan and former U.S. Mid-Amateur champion who came out on top in 2000 and 2008, and Bryson DeChambeau, the victor in 2013.

Just as impressive is the list of the courses and clubs that have hosted the event, which is held at a different site each year. Among them are a number of former U.S. Open venues (Interlachen and Minikahda in Minnesota, St. Louis Country Club in Missouri, Cherry Hills in Colorado and Southern Hills in Oklahoma) and several layouts that regularly are ranked among the very finest in the land, such as Spyglass Hill in California, the Broadmoor in Colorado and Prairie Dunes, the Hutchinson, Kan., gem that is the site of this year's event.

"The venues make the Trans-Miss special, and so do the very good golfers we are able to recruit each year," says McCoy, who serves on the association's board of directors and is head of the Trans-Miss championship committee. "Then, there is the history, which goes all the way back to 1901 and includes so many great players."

McCoy is also quick to mention the charitable function of the Trans-Miss Golf Association, and its giving of thousands of dollars in educational scholarships each year to young men and women pursuing careers as course superintendents or in other areas of turf management. That is a very worthy cause, and so is its more amorphous but nonetheless important effort to, as it says in its mission statement, "promote and advance the true spirit of amateur golf by cultivating harmony, friendly competition and cooperation" among its members.

As is the case with any group that has been able to prosper for more than 100 years, the Trans-Miss has evolved. While the field of its main tournament today comprises primarily college golfers, it also recognizes the low mid-am at the conclusion of play. In 1981, the organization started a Four-Ball Championship and 17 years ago created a Senior Championship. The three events are run by the Trans-Miss board of directors and managed in Dallas by the Texas Golf Association. The Trans-Miss now boasts more than 200 member clubs from 20 states, including a few from east of the Mississippi. And next year, it is staging its annual championship in that part of the country for the very first time, at the esteemed Brookside Golf and Country Club in Columbus, Ohio.

It's another good move for a group that has made many of them through the years and that continues to give amateur players what it has wanted to from the beginning: the chance to enjoy the competition and camaraderie of golf.



# Congratulations **CAMERON CHAMP**

114th Trans-Mississippi Amateur Champion

THANKS TO PRAIRIE DUNES COUNTRY CLUB  
MEMBERSHIP & STAFF FOR HOSTING THIS  
YEAR'S CHAMPIONSHIP

**TRANSMISS**  
trans-miss.org

## RECAP



Cameron Champ

# Cameron Champ Wins 114th Trans-Miss Amateur Championship

**HUTCHINSON, Kan.** — The way Cameron Champ was playing, the only thing that could stop him was a thunderstorm.

That's what happened Thursday on the final day of the 114th Trans-Mississippi Amateur Championship. Severe weather with lightning and thunderstorms washed out the final round. Champ, a 22-year-old Texas A&M senior, won the championship at Prairie Dunes Country Club with a 54-hole score of 9-under-par 201. The Sacramento, Calif., native won by four shots over Stoney Crouch from Mount Juliet, Tenn., and Collin Morikawa from La Cañada Flintridge, Calif.

After completion of the third round Thursday morning, play during the final round was suspended at 3:56 p.m. for a dangerous situation. Lightning and thunderstorms were barreling down on Prairie Dunes. Champ, who led the prestigious championship by one shot after 36 holes, stretched his lead to four on Thursday with five birdies and an eagle on his way to a 4-under 66 in the third round. Before play was suspended, his game was on cruise control. He had birdied four of his first six holes in the now-negated fourth round.

After a standout season for the Aggies that saw him notch one victory and five top-5s, Champ qualified for the 117th U.S. Open at Erin Hills. Despite Champ's collegiate success, his father Jeff Champ said his son didn't have the same level of confidence then as he displayed this week at Prairie Dunes.

"He's a humble kid," Jeff Champ said. "He didn't quite



Prairie Dunes Country Club

believe in himself the way I do."

That changed during the course of one mid-June afternoon. In preparation for the U.S. Open, Champ scored a practice round with two of the top international professionals in the world. Both Rory McIlroy and Louis Oosthuizen were friendly and kind to Champ during the round. But it wasn't anything they said or did that changed Champ. It was what he did that altered Champ's attitude about himself.

"After that round, Cameron saw that he can hit all the same shots they can," Jeff Champ said. "And he was outdriving them by a bit. Everything changed after that."

Since that practice round, Champ has finished T32 in the U.S. Open, was the medalist at the 117th North and South

## RECAP

Amateur at Pinehurst and is firmly in consideration for the Walker Cup.

And now he's a Trans-Miss Amateur champion, joining the likes of Jack Nicklaus (1958, '59), Ben Crenshaw (1972), Deane Beaman (1960), Bryson DeChambeau (2013) and Charlie Coe (1947, '49, '52, '56)

"Starting the summer, I got some confidence built with making the U.S. Open and playing well there," said Champ, who has worked with noted swing instructor Sean Foley since 2010 and owns a staggering 198 mph ball speed average. "This week, I didn't make many mistakes. Today I just had it going. The confidence from the U.S. Open is gradually moving into other parts of my game. It came out this week at the right time."

With 15 birdies and an eagle in 54 holes, the self-assured Champ blitzed the Perry Maxwell-designed links-style course in America's heartland. The Third-Team All-American selection took control of the tournament with a second round 65. He made six birdies against a lone bogey in 20-25 mph winds in sweltering, nearly 100-degree heat.

When the winds relented during Thursday's third round, Champ was even more aggressive. He attacked the fescue-framed fairways with drives in excess of 320 yards and rode a hot putter to the title.

"That practice round (at Erin Hills) showed me what I'm capable of," he said. "Players like me, we've looked up to them for years. To see how they hit the ball and how they go about things, I guess it proves that players of my caliber – and the players here at this event – we can hit those shots. Obviously they have way more experience. They've been there for years and have won majors. That just boosted my confidence to see what I can do and what I have to improve on to get better."

Among those impressed with Champ's performance was Crouch, the runner-up along with 2015 Trans-Miss Amateur champion Morikawa at 5-under 205.

"I don't hit it long, but I don't hit it short, either," said Crouch, a recent graduate from Lipscomb University. "He was outdriving me by 50-, 60-yards. It was kind of demoralizing. When he has his wedges dialed in and he's putting well, he's going to play a lot of good golf in the future."

Crouch posted three rounds in the 60s and held a share of the lead after an opening round 67. He said slowing his swing down in the strong winds that confounded and challenged the field in the first two rounds helped him score.

"Slowing down and not being in a rush was the biggest thing for me," he said. "I played well this week, but you just have to shake Cameron's hand and say, 'Well done, man.'"

Morikawa played his way into contention in the second and third rounds with scores of 68-67 after his even-par 70 to start the championship. The Cal-Berkeley junior won the 112th edition of the Trans-Miss Amateur at nearby Flint Hills National. His performance that year was much like Champ's this week. Morikawa won in 2015 by seven shots.

Chandler Phillips from Huntsville, Texas, finished in fourth place at 6-under 206. He's not only Champ's college teammate at Texas A&M; they're roommates. Phillips blistered Prairie Dunes on Thursday morning a bogey-free 64 to move up the leader board.

"It could've been better," he said. "I missed two 5-footers and lipped out two others."

Tyler Strafaci from Davie, Fla., and Franklin Huang from Poway, Calif., shared fifth place at 2-under 208.

## TRANSMISS

### 2018 Championships



**19th Trans-Miss Senior**  
**Desert Forest Golf Club**  
**Carefree, AZ**  
**May 14-17**



**115th Trans-Miss Amateur**  
**Brookside Golf & CC**  
**Columbus, OH**  
**July 9-13**



**38th Trans-Miss Four-Ball**  
**Mayacama Golf Club**  
**Santa Rosa, CA**  
**September 17-20**

## Q&amp;A

# Turf Scholarship Q&A With Troy Flanagan

THE OLYMPIC CLUB



*Troy Flanagan, The Olympic Club's Director of Golf Maintenance, has enjoyed an agronomy career that spans nearly 30 years. It includes tenures at some of the most iconic courses in America. A former Trans-Miss Turf Scholarship winner, Flanagan has a unique perspective on how the program helps young people begin their forays into the industry. He took some time out of a busy day at the historic 54-hole facility in San Francisco to answer some questions.*

## Can you briefly recap your journey from Trans-Miss Turf Scholarship winner to your current post as the Director of Golf Maintenance at The Olympic Club?

I got started in the industry while I was in undergraduate school at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minn. Off and on again from 1989 to 1993 while I was in college, I worked on the grounds crew at Town and Country Club in St. Paul. After I graduated in 1991, I worked as a greenskeeper at Pebble Beach, but they treated me like an intern because they knew I wanted to get into the business.

I worked at Pebble Beach for one year, and then went to the turf program at Penn State. I completed a two-year Turfgrass Management program in 1995. As part of it, I did an internship in 1994 at DuPont

Country Club in Wilmington, Del. After I graduated, I went straight to work for Troon Golf and Country Club in Scottsdale for two years as the Assistant Superintendent.

I spent one year as the Assistant Superintendent at Cypress Point from 1997-98. Then I spent eight years as the Superintendent at Round Hill Golf & Country Club in Alamo, Calif, from 1998-2006. Next I became the Superintendent at Anthem Country Club in Henderson, Nev., from 2006-14. And I've been at The Olympic Club since May of 2014.

## When you were at Penn State, how did you learn about the Trans-Miss Turf Scholarship?

Within a couple days of graduation, our advisor brought us in and told us which scholarships we won. I had done really well at school, and the Trans-Mississippi Turf Scholarship was one of two I received. At that time, I didn't know what the Trans-Miss was; I had no idea. Sooner after, I learned about the Trans-Miss Golf Association and became very grateful that I was awarded that particular scholarship. I learned about all the good things the Trans-Miss had done for turf research and all the scholarships that had been given out over the years to young people in turf like myself.

## How did winning that scholarship help you in your pursuit of a career in golf course agronomy?

It was huge. As a new graduate, I had six years of loans to pay off. The Trans-Miss Turf Scholarship helped me relocate from Minnesota to Arizona for my first job. I had to pay for my expenses to get down there. Without this scholarship, I would've had to ask my parents to help me with another loan. They're pretty amazing people and had already helped me

with school, so the last thing I wanted to do was graduate and ask for more help. The Trans-Miss Turf Scholarship really helped me get on my career path to a place I wanted to go, which was the Southwest and the desert.

## What are some of the challenges that college students looking to get into golf course agronomy careers face today?

To me, getting into the industry right now is really easy. I've never seen more of a need for good, young turf professionals at the entry level – the second assistant, the intern, even the first assistant – in my whole career. There is a huge need for good, young professionals.

## From your perspective, how has the Trans-Miss Turf Scholarship program helped the golf course agronomy industry?

For many years the Trans-Miss has allowed young turf professionals the opportunity to move from the classroom to the golf course. The monetary award helps many graduates pay down their expenses from school, provide moving expenses or first month rent or even allows for a little savings. As a person like myself becomes older, I can look back at this award and be proud that my name is among some of the greats in the industry. Knowing I am a Trans-Miss recipient will be one of my prouder achievements in my long career.

*The Trans-Miss will have additional details on the 2018 Scholarship Program and Club Turf Internship Grants in mid-September. The programs' aim is to provide financial assistance to agronomy students, both in the classroom and on the golf course with our member clubs.*

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 Hank Wilkinson, Edina, MN

## Contact

Trans-Mississippi Golf Association & Turf Scholarship Fund  
 16200 Addison Rd., Ste 150  
 Addison, TX 75001  
 Phone: (214) 468-8942  
 Fax: (214) 468-8032