

Zalatoris Wins
Weather-Shortened
Trans-Miss Championship

New Web.com Exemption



Will Zalatoris' Hot Summer

Modesto's Burda Survives
to Win Trans-Miss Senior

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111th TRANS-MISS CHAMPIONSHIP

ZALATORIS WINS WEATHER-SHORTENED TRANS-MISS CHAMPIONSHIP

TULSA, Okla.--Will Zalatoris has won golf tournaments a lot of different ways, but never like this.

The 17-year-old from Plano, Texas, in early July won the 111th Trans-Mississippi Championship presented by TaylorMade-Adidas without swinging a club on the final day. Severe thunderstorms wiped out the last two rounds of the prestigious annual event after tournament organizers made multiple attempts to get the 68 players who made the cut back on the golf course at Southern Hills Country Club. Zalatoris won with a two-day total of 5-under-par 135.

"It's mixed emotions, because I much rather would have played golf today," said Zalatoris, who in June also won the revered Texas Amateur Championship at Brook Hollow Golf Club in Dallas. "I wanted to play

for two reasons. One, I'm 17 and I wanted the experience of playing under pressure. One day I hope to play professional golf and this is part of that process. And two, I absolutely love this golf course. I'm biased, but Southern Hills is seriously one of the best courses I've ever played. Everything is right in front of you; nothing

"Southern Hills is seriously one of the best courses I've ever played."

is tricked up. And it is hard. I mean, this is a really hard golf course, and I love it."

Alex Franklin, a senior at Oregon State, finished in second place. He said at the beginning of the week his goal was to make the cut. He did much better than that, registering the only bogey-free round of the championship with a 3-under 67 in the first round. Franklin, who hails from San Rafael, Calif., added a 1-under 69 in the second round to post 4-under 136 for the weather-shortened championship.

"It's bittersweet for me," Franklin said. "Obviously

you want a chance to win that trophy, and this course is so awesome that I wanted to keep playing it. Getting the chance to play Southern Hills in championship condition was a special treat, and I'm grateful for the opportunity. But it's definitely still a 'win' for me. I didn't have very good form coming into this week, so I'm very happy with how I played. There are a ton of positives to take away."

Matt Gilchrest from Southlake, Texas, took third place at 2-under 138 with a pair of 1-under 69s. Jonathan Sanders from Chatsworth, Calif., Kyle Weldon from Des Peres, Mo., and Brian Campbell from Irvine, Calif., rounded out the top-five. They all tied for fourth place at 1-under 139.

The day began with a five-and-half-hour delay after early morning thunderstorms brought dangerous lightning strikes near the golf course. After Tournament Director Dave Prinz canceled the fourth round and attempted to shorten the Trans-Miss to 54 holes, play re-started at 1 p.m.

It didn't last long, however.

Twenty-eight minutes later more serious weather blew in, bringing more lightning. By 3 p.m. Prinz again tried to re-start play, but another round of lightning forced his hand.

"Today was a little bit of a challenge," said Prinz, also the Director of Operations for the Trans-Miss Golf Association. "We knew there would be thunderstorms today, but we tried to give it a shot. Ultimately Mother Nature won out."

So did Zalatoris. Headed to Wake Forest this fall on the Arnold Palmer Scholarship, it wasn't lost on Zalatoris that fellow Texan Kelly Kraft in 2011 won the Texas Amateur and Trans-Miss Championship before going on to win the U.S. Amateur. With the victory at Southern Hills, Zalatoris has two legs of the major amateur trifecta under his belt.

"I would love to follow in those footsteps, obviously," he said. "I have my U.S. Amateur Qualifier coming up, so I'm hopeful that it can happen."

Regardless of his U.S. Amateur outcome, Zalatoris qualified for another big tournament with his Trans-Miss Championship. He'll receive a sponsor's exemption into the 2015 Air Capital Classic on the Web.com Tour. The TMGA on Wednesday announced the new agreement with the PGA Tour's developmental circuit, and Zalatoris said he can't wait to tee it up in Wichita,

Kan., next spring for the Air Capital Classic.

Though they weren't playing in the same group during the second round, Zalatoris and Franklin were tied for the lead a handful of times. Zalatoris took the lead for good with a birdie on his 10th hole, and then willed in eight straight pars to post his 2-under 68.

"On the scorecard it may have looked like I cruised in, but I definitely didn't," he said. "I only hit three greens on my final eight holes. I had to make some seriously difficult par saves. I'm really proud of the way I played this week."

Throughout the storied 111-year history of the Trans-Miss Championship, only a handful of players have successfully defended their titles. One of those was 18-time major championship winner Jack Nicklaus, who won the Trans-Miss in 1959 and '60. Zalatoris has a chance to do the same next July at Flint Hills National Golf Club in Andover, Kan.

"I'll definitely be back for this next year," Zalatoris said. "This is a very well-run championship with a great reputation. I'm proud to have won it."



2014 Champion Will Zalatoris

MEET THE WINNER

Will Zalatoris' Hot Summer

PLANO TEEN WINS U.S. JUNIOR AMATEUR

It's the Summer of Zalatoris and we're all just along for the ride.

Fresh off his Trans-Mississippi Championship at Southern Hills Country Club in Tulsa, the 17-year-old from Plano, Texas, continued his torrid two-month stretch with a national championship in late July. Zalatoris padded his ever-growing competitive résumé with the 2014 U.S. Junior Amateur title held July 21-26 on the Nicklaus Course at The Club at Carlton Woods in The Woodlands.

In the 36-hole championship final, Zalatoris defeated Davis Riley of Hattiesburg, Miss., 5 and 3.

Zalatoris, who plays at Bent Tree CC in Dallas, holed out from 115 yards for eagle on the 32nd hole — the par-4 14th on the Nicklaus Course — to take a 4-up lead and ended the match with a par win on the 33rd hole.

The fifth time was the charm for Zalatoris, who played in his final U.S. Junior Amateur. He is one of just seven golfers to compete in five U.S. Junior Amateurs and this time, he dominated the field.

The victory is just the latest milestone in what has been a sizzling summer for Zalatoris, who in a short window also won the Texas Amateur in June at Brook Hollow Golf Club in Dallas before he won the weather-shortened Trans-Miss Championship with a 36-hole score of 5-under-par 135.

A recipient of the prestigious Arnold Palmer Scholarship, Zalatoris begins his college career at Wake Forest University in the fall. He joins an impressive list of Texans that have come to dominate the U.S. Junior over the past decade and include such familiar names as Scottie Scheffler (2013), Jordan Spieth (2009, '11), Cory Whitsett (2007) and Hunter Mahan (1999).



With the victory, Zalatoris became the third Texan in the last four years to win the Junior Amateur, but the first to win on Texas soil.

TRANSMISS 2015 Schedule

112th Trans-Miss Championship
Flint Hills National Golf Club
Andover, Kansas
July 6-10

Trans-Miss Senior Championship
Brook Hollow Golf Club
Dallas, Texas
May 18-21

Trans-Miss Four-Ball Championship
The Honors Course
Ooltewah, TN
September 14-17



CHAMPIONSHIP

NEW WEB.COM EXEMPTION

TULSA, Okla.--The Trans-Mississippi Golf Association in July announced a new element to its annual championship. Beginning this year, the winner of the Trans-Miss Championship presented by TaylorMade-Adidas receives a sponsor's exemption into the Web.com Tour's Air Capital Classic presented by Aetna.

Will Zalatoris from Plano, Texas, earned the sponsor's exemption with his victory at the 2014 Trans-Miss Championship at historic Southern Hills Country Club. Zalatoris shot 5-under-par 135 in the weather-shortened event.

"The addition of the Web.com Tour's Air Capital Classic sponsor's exemption for our champion will provide another enhancement to our championship that has such a distinguished history," TMGA Executive Director Rob Addington said.

Players in the 2014 Trans-Miss Championship field received the news about the Web.com Tour sponsor's exemption the night before it started at the Player's Banquet. Not only will the elite field of 144 players compete to put their names next to past Trans-Miss Champions such as Jack Nicklaus and Ben Crenshaw; they'll also be gunning for a spot in the Air Capital Classic.

"We've worked hard to elevate this Championship into the upper-tier of amateur tournaments," said Dave Prinz, Director of Operations for the TMGA. "This will only help us continue to attract top players from around the world."

Played annually since 1990, the Air Capital Classic has been a staple on the Web.com Tour, which is the developmental circuit for the PGA Tour. Formerly known as the Wichita Open, the Air Capital Classic recently was voted by players as one of the most popular on the Web.com Tour. The event has been played at Crestview Country Club for the past 13 years.

Since 2006, more than \$1 million has been raised for local charities through the Air Capital Classic. Each year the event generates an economic impact of \$4.5 million for local businesses. Past champions of the event include Tom Lehman in 1990, David Duval in 1993, David Toms in 1995 and Jason Dufner in 2001. All four graduated onto the PGA Tour and went on to win major championships.

Steve Hatchett, a Trans-Miss Golf Association board member since 1996, was instrumental in landing the Web.com Tour partnership. Hatchett is part owner of Scholfield Auto Dealerships, which is one of the loyal sponsors of the Air Capital Classic.

ABOUT



The Web.com Tour is the developmental tour for the PGA Tour, and features professional golfers who have either failed to score well enough at that level's Qualifying School (the main tour's qualifying tournament, popularly referred to as "Q-School") to earn their PGA Tour card, or who have done so but then failed to win enough money to stay at that level. Those who are on the top 25 of the money list at year's end are given PGA Tour memberships for the next season. Beginning with the 2013 season, the Web.com Tour will play a greater role in professional golf by becoming the dominant pathway for non-members to earn their PGA Tour card.



Photo: PGA Tour player Jim Furyk began his professional career playing in the Web.com Tour.

SENIOR CHAMPION

MODESTO'S BURDA SURVIVES TO WIN TRANS-MISS SENIOR

LA QUINTA, Calif.—There's finishing up strong, there's hanging on to win and then there's what Jeff Burda did at the 15th playing of the Trans-Miss Senior Championship in late May. Holding a five-shot lead on the final hole, Burda's plan was to play it safe with a 3-wood on La Quinta Country Club's par-4 18th hole. Safe turned into sloppy after he narrowly missed the water hazard with his drive. He hit his second shot into a bunker and his third shot found the dreaded water hazard.

A triple bogey later, the 61-year-old Burda was a relieved champion.

"This means a lot, especially with the history of this association," said Burda, a three-time California State Senior Champion from Modesto. "To be a champion in the Trans-Miss Association is quite an honor."

He finished at even-par 216, two shots clear of Dave Mooty from Eden Prairie, Minn. Burda's

shaky finish shouldn't take away from how well he played all week. Besides, he said, this wasn't the first time he'd limped in to claim a championship.

"About 15 years ago I made a triple bogey to win the Alameda Commuters Amateur (in Northern California)," said Burda, who shot rounds of 73-71-72. "I must be the only player in the history of golf to triple 18 twice to win."

Mooty started the final round six shots back and made a furious run at catching Burda. Even a 90-minute "dangerous weather" delay with lightning in the area couldn't slow

Mooty. He came out after the re-start and birdied Nos. 9, 12 and 13. A bogey on the 14th did halt his momentum, but he turned in the day's best score, a 4-under 68 to finish second. "I've never been near the lead in one of these," Mooty said. "I was a 10-handicap when I was 40. For the past 10 years, I've been between a +1 and a 1. But I really enjoyed this golf course. It's so wonderful. You have to hit it right to left and left to right. The greens are so pure. This place is amazing."

Founded in 1959, the club's past and present members read like a "Who's Who List" and includes Clint Eastwood, Andy Williams, Frank Capra, former President Gerald Ford, former California Governor Edmund Brown, George Blanda and Chuck Knox. Tucked against a scenic backdrop of the rugged Santa Rosa-San Jancito Mountains in the Coachella Valley, La Quinta Country Club annually plays host

to the PGA Tour's Humana Challenge, formerly known as the Bob Hope Classic. Tour pros such as Phil Mickelson, Hunter Mahan and Tommy Armour III have said that the greens at La Quinta CC are among the best the PGA Tour sees each year.

Competitors in this year's Trans-Miss echoed those sentiments. Every player asked spoke in profuse compliments about La Quinta CC.

Sixty-nine-year-old Gary Shemano from Kentfield, Calif., was another who heard all the wonderful things about the

historic club and the Trans-Miss Senior. He said he'd wanted to play in the event for several years. All he did was win the Super Senior Division his first time out.

"This is absolutely phenomenal," he said. "It shows that I can still play."

After his third straight 3-over 75, Shemano tied Sam Boyd from Kemah, Texas, at 9-over 225. They went to a sudden death playoff, where Boyd found the trees up the left side of the first hole. Boyd deposited his second shot into a green-side bunker and ended up making a bogey.

Shemano, meanwhile, drove it down the middle of the fairway and hit the green on his next shot. Two putts later, Shemano's stress-free par won the championship.

"This is such a well-run event with a great reputation. It means so much to win," said Shemano, who last July won the gold medal in golf at the Maccabiah Games in Israel. "I brought my friend Alan Schneider, who has pancreatic cancer, to play with me this week. He played great, too, and he really inspired me."

A member of the Jewish Sports Hall of Fame, Shemano was born and raised in San Francisco. While in high school he caddied for World Golf Hall of Famer Ken Venturi and once beat Johnny Miller, another Hall of Fame member, in an amateur tournament.

Gary Kirwan from McKinney, Texas, provided extra fireworks on the final day with a hole-in-one on the 163-yard par-3 15th hole. The 65-year-old Super Senior hit a smooth 6-iron that covered the flagstick the whole way.

"The pin was down in a valley, so we didn't see it go in," said Kirwan, who plays out of the Stonebridge-Dye Course that is known as one of the toughest in Texas. "I thought it went over the back of the green. But when we got up there, it was in the hole."

Kirwan said it was his eighth ace, but he couldn't remember when he made the last one.

"It had to be seven or eight years ago," he said.

Mac McGee from Midland also made a final round ace. He made a one on the 178-yard third hole with a 5-iron. McGee finished tied for third place at 5-over 221 with Bill Brammer from Rancho Santa Fe, Calif., and Gary Hardin from Fort Worth, Texas.

For full results, please click here. The 2015 Trans-Miss Senior travels to Dallas and will be played at historic Brook Hollow Golf Club. For more information on the Trans-Miss Golf Association, please visit www.trans-miss.org.



2014 Trans-Miss Senior Championship Jeff Burda



Jeff Burda's second-round 71 gave him a two-shot lead through 36 holes at the Trans-Miss Senior.

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2014

Trans-Miss Four-Ball Championship
September 7-10
Club at Las Campanas Santa Fe, NM
Entries Open: June 16
Entries Close: August 25