



THE TRANSCRIPT



Dear Fellow Golfers:

As the competitive calendar gets underway, we at the Trans-Mississippi Golf Association are extremely excited about our tournament season and the outstanding venues that will host our 2017 championships.

This year we travel to three wonderful championship sites: our Senior Championship will be held May 22-25 at Eldorado Country Club in Indian Wells, Calif.; the 114th Trans-Miss Amateur Championship heads back to historic Prairie Dunes Country Club in Hutchinson, Kan., July 10-13; and the Bayonet Course at Bayonet Black Horse in Seaside, Calif., will play host to our Four-Ball Championship September 11-14. Each of these clubs has a unique history within the game of golf and will be a fantastic venue for the respective championships.

The Trans-Miss Turf Scholarship Fund continues to be a major focus of our efforts. This year we will further enhance our Club Turf Internship Program, which began three years ago as a supplement to the scholarship program the Fund has conducted for many years. The Program has expanded and strengthened the Fund's long-term support of young men and women working towards careers as golf course superintendents.

The Club Turf Internship Program provides Trans-Miss Member Clubs with financial support to hire an agronomy student for a summer as an intern to train with the clubs' superintendent and work with the clubs' maintenance crews. These internships have proven to be invaluable to the clubs providing bright, ambitious students as additional staff. At the same time, the interns acquire experience, training, mentorship, contacts, employment prospects and summer income.

These students get real world experience with some of the best superintendents at prestigious clubs around the country. Your support through your clubs' membership and your participation in Trans-Miss events supports this worthy cause. I hope that you will encourage your club to join the Trans and to advise worthy young candidates to apply for the internship program. And please come join us this year at our championships for some wonderful golf.

On behalf of my fellow directors and the staff of the Trans-Miss Golf Association and Turf Scholarship Fund, thanks so much for your support and participation. See you on the course this season!

Truly,

Hunter Nelson

President

Trans-Miss Golf Association

NEWS



Year in Review: 2016 Trans-Miss Championships

Tommy Brennan Wins the 17th Trans-Miss Senior Championship

HOUSTON, Texas— It's true there's no place like home, but for Tommy Brennan, five hours west of where he hangs his hat isn't too bad, either. Brennan, who lives in Covington, La., and grew up in New Orleans, won the 17th Trans-Mississippi Senior Championship at Houston Country Club, a course and club that gave him nostalgic vibes from the moment he stepped on property the week of the championship.

A model of consistency, Brennan shot rounds of 71-71-70 to finish at 1-under-par 212. He won by four shots over Mike Booker from The Woodlands and Trans-Miss Director John McClure, who tied for second place at 3-over 216. Brennan commented early in the week that Houston Country Club reminded him of New Orleans Country Club, on which he grew up playing. The oak tree-lined fairways, tricky doglegs and pushed-up greens all felt familiar, as did the heat and humidity the players experienced throughout the week.

If those weren't enough to strike sentimental chords with Brennan, he had to look no further than to Houston Country Club's Head Professional Gordon Johnson for a friendly, welcoming face. Johnson was the head pro at New Orleans Country Club from 1988-92.

"I really like this place," said Brennan, 55, who won the 2015 Louisiana Senior Amateur and was runner-up at the 1994 U.S. Mid-Amateur. "I told my caddie as soon as we



got here: This reminds me of home. We put in a lot of work on Sunday and Monday in practice rounds, and everything just felt comfortable. The staff did a great job getting this course in shape for us."

Brennan led the championship after 36 holes thanks to consecutive even-par rounds to start the tournament. In the final round, three birdies and only two bogeys allowed him to sign for a red number, a 1-under 70. Out of more than 50 players in the Senior Division, Lee Sandlin from Dallas posted the only other under-par round Thursday; Sandlin shot 1-under to score a top-25 finish. Both scores are even more impressive considering Houston Country Club played to a stroke average of 77.58 for the final round.

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"Any time you win a national event like this one, it means something," Brennan said. "This isn't like a city championship. This is a big-time national tournament. I drove the ball pretty well all week and was proud of how I played."

Booker, the reigning Texas Senior Amateur champion and winner of nine Texas Golf Association events, played alongside Brennan in the final round.

"He was very consistent," Booker said of Brennan. "Fairways and greens all day. He played really well."

John Dowdall from Fulshear, Texas, took fourth place at 6-over 219. Eddie Lyons from Shreveport, La., and Chuck Palmer from Dallas shared fifth place with 7-over 220.

Gary Kirwan from McKinney, Texas, won the Super Senior Division for players 65 years and older. The steady Kirwan shot rounds of 74-75-75 to win with 11-over 224, two better than five-time Trans-Miss Senior champion Chris Maletis from Portland, Ore.

"Other than two holes, I kept it in play all week," said the 67-year-old Kirwan, who was the Society of Seniors' 2015 Super Senior Player of the Year after eight top-5 finishes last year. "It's an honor to win a Trans-Miss event because it's a big deal. This is a good course, a historical course."

And it's a great course to win on, that's for sure."

Jody Vasquez from Aledo, Texas, claimed third place at 14-over 227. Corliss Nelson from Dallas shared fifth place with Bob Hullender from San Antonio. Nelson and Hullender finished at 16-over 229.

The Trans-Miss Senior Championship features three age divisions, one of which completed play Wednesday. In the Legends Division for amateurs aged 70 and older, players compete over 36 holes. Jim Martin from Dallas successfully defended his 2015 Legends Division title with a score of 6-over 148. Phil Patterson, the 2016 Trans-Miss Golf Association President, finished in second place in the Legends Division at 10-over 152.

It was a special victory for Martin, who began his 30-year Trans-Miss playing career at Houston Country Club in 1982 at the Four-Ball Championship. Martin also won the 1987 Trans-Miss Four-Ball with partner Travis Thompson from Dallas.

The Trans-Miss Golf Association extends its sincere gratitude to the Houston Country Club staff and members, as well as our volunteers, for their parts in making this a successful and memorable week.

Zalatoris Wins Second Trans-Miss Amateur Championship

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif.—Will Zalatoris from Plano came to The Olympic Club and the 113th Trans-Mississippi Amateur Championship with two goals. Firstly, he wanted to play 72 holes, something he was unable to do in 2014 when Zalatoris won this tournament in the rain-shortened affair at Southern Hills Country Club. More importantly, Zalatoris also wanted to put his name on the trophy a second time.

"Just like Jack Nicklaus," he said early in the week.

Aspiring to emulate the game's all-time greatest champion has to be among the most ambitious of goals, but in this respect Zalatoris and Nicklaus share common ground. With a 5-foot par putt on iconic 18th hole at The Olympic Club's Lake Course, Zalatoris on the final day of the championship scored a one-shot victory over Ruben Sondjaja from Sydney, Australia. Zalatoris recorded a 72-hole score – mission accomplished, there, too – of 6-under 274 to win the prestigious championship for a second time.

Just like Jack Nicklaus.

The Golden Bear, before the first of his record 18 major championships, won the Trans-Miss Championship in 1958 and '59. Zalatoris held off Sondjaja, the Iowa State senior who clawed his way to an even-par 70 in the final round to post 5-under 275 overall. University of Texas junior Doug Ghim from Arlington Heights, Ill., finished third at 2-under



278. Four players tied for fourth at even-par 280.

For Zalatoris, who grew up in the Bay Area before his family moved to Texas in 2004, his second Trans-Miss Championship was sweeter than the first, when lightning and heavy storms cut the event to 36 holes in 2014.

"I wanted to solidify this after I won it the first time," said Zalatoris, a Wake Forest junior with two collegiate victories in addition wins at the 105th Texas Amateur and the U.S. Junior Amateur in 2014. "In the back of my mind, yes, I did want on that trophy twice with Jack Nicklaus. That was a huge goal. It wasn't easy, though."

Zalatoris made it look pretty simple through the first two rounds. Playing on what he called "cruise control," he shot rounds of 66-65 to stake a one-shot lead over Arizona State senior Jared du Toit headed into Thursday's 36-hole finale. Zalatoris stumbled with a third round 74 while du Toit torched the final three holes with birdie-eagle-birdie to grab a three-shot lead through 54 holes.

NEWS

During the final round, however, du Toit found himself in trouble time and again – he suffered two unfortunate plugged lies in bunkers – and wilted with a 10-over 80. Sondjaja, who began the final round tied with Zalatoris at 5-under, kept pace over the final hours of the championship. As the marine layer crept in from the nearby Pacific Ocean and created an eerie fog over the historic golf course that has hosted five U.S. Opens, Sondjaja piled up par after par while one group behind him Zalatoris did the same.

Zalatoris finally broke through with an 8-foot birdie on the ninth hole to take a one-shot lead. The moisture in the air made the mid-50-degree temperatures feel much colder, but Zalatoris and Sondjaja remained steady in the elements. When Zalatoris walked in a 20-foot birdie on the famous par-5 16th, he pushed his lead to two shots. A minute later, Sondjaja rolled in a 3-footer for birdie on 17 to trim the advantage back to one.

Sondjaja missed the 18th green on his approach and scrambled for his par. That left the stage for Zalatoris, who eased in his par-saving putt for the victory.

"Today was just awesome," he said. "Especially with having friends and family around me here, it means a lot. I can't wait to get this trophy home to Dallas. You have no idea."

Sondjaja, for his part, was upbeat after receiving his runner-up crystal hardware. He broke through for his first college win at the Hawkeye Invite in April and knows he's trending in the right direction.

"Even-par at the Olympic Club is a good score any day," he said. "With what was on the line today, I think it was

a respectable score. I'm really proud of myself for the way I played under the gun. Was it my best game today? Probably not, but I'm happy with how I played."

SMU Coach Jason Enloe won the Low Mid-Amateur honors with a score of 10-over 290. He tied for 40th overall. The top 30 finishers are exempt into the 114th Trans-Miss Championship, to be played next summer at Prairie Dunes Golf Club in Hutchinson, Kan.

There was much to celebrate this week at The Olympic Club. Twenty-three of the top 200 players in the World Amateur Golf Rankings competed, making it one of the top amateur tournaments in the world this year. Zalatoris entered the week ranked 60th, a number that surely will improve when the new rankings are published.

The golf course, too, provided a memorable canvas on which Zalatoris painted his victory. For the 113th Trans-Miss Championship, the hillside course framed by towering Monterey pines and cypress trees – nearly 40,000 of them – played tough, fair and, most of all, consistent. The stroke average never altered more than a half-stroke between all four rounds and finished at 73.49. That was a testament to the daily set up by the Trans-Miss Golf Association staff who conducted the event, as well as to the club's maintenance staff. That hard-working group is led by Director of Golf Maintenance Troy Flanagan, a former Trans-Miss Golf Association Turf Scholarship winner.

The TMGA extends its most sincere gratitude to The Olympic Club members and staff, as well as our volunteers, for their tireless efforts in making this year's championship a rousing success.

Vinson and Davis Claim Victory at 36th Trans-Miss Four-Ball Championship



Blake Vinson (left) & Beau Davis

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz.—The final day of the 36th Trans-Mississippi Four-Ball Championship was met by another cool morning, with periodic showers and drizzle consuming much of the forecast. With tournament officials having suspended play Wednesday evening due to

darkness at 6:15 p.m. local time, competitors in the Senior and Super Senior Divisions returned to complete a short collection of holes on the front and back nines at Forest Highlands' Canyon Course.

With play resumed at 7:30 a.m. local time, competitors still on the golf course grinded through their remaining holes in an effort to avoid the 36-hole cut and compete in the third and final round. The Super Senior Division cut included teams posting a two-day total of 149, seven-over par, for fourteen total teams. In the larger Senior Division, the eventual mid-morning cut included teams posting a two-day total of 147, five-over par, landing 17 teams in the final round.

While a majority of the Senior and Super Senior fields would see a short-break ahead of their final round, the youthful Championship Field began final round play, having completed second round play the previous day. A later start to the morning proved beneficial for Fort Worth's Blake Vinson and Beau Davis as they began their front side with a birdie-filled 29, en route to a 7-under par 64, the low score on the day.

NEWS

Vinson and Davis credited their success in the final round – and throughout the championship – to complimentary play by both partners. In the final round, the partnership contributed evenly – nine holes a piece – to their four-ball score. “We got it going early,” Davis said, “and we managed to contribute equally throughout the round... We stumbled a bit on the back and didn’t think it would be enough.” Despite their reservations leaving the scoring area as clubhouse leaders, Vinson and Davis would quickly learn that their final round push was enough to take the Championship Division.

Tied heading into Thursday morning as final round co-leaders, Ben Blundell and Jordan Cook both from Oklahoma City, Okla. and Danny Licursi, Thousand Oaks, Calif., paired with Bowen Osborn of Burbank, Calif., both got off to slower than anticipated starts, with the groups posting one-over and one-under front nine scores, respectively. Consistent posting of pars and periodic bogeys along the back nine meant the 36-hole lead held by both teams would diminish, resulting in an eventual five shot margin of victory for Vinson and Davis.

Having completed second round play ahead of their Senior counterparts Thursday morning, the Super Senior Division would crown champions next. Carrying a one-shot lead into the final round, the California tandem of Gary Hardin and Greg Mokler capitalized on five birdies through their final 18, led largely by the steady play of Gary Hardin. Seeking to make up ground close behind were another team of Californians in Dave Sheff of Dana Point and Rich Tolly of Laguna Hills. While the latter pairing exchanged birdies in an effort to make up ground, both teams would go on to post final round scores of 68,

3-under par and finish one-two in their division.

Rounding out final round pairings were the Senior Division, led after two rounds by co-leaders Steve Van Herpe, Temecula, Calif. and Dan Pouliot, Burbank, Calif., paired against Lawrence Field, Tulsa, Okla. and Murphy Mitchell, Scottsdale, Ariz., who both sat at 11-under, 131. The stellar play that saw both teams beat par over the first two rounds was humbled by an afternoon of more consistent play with barrages of pars, along with intermittent and untimely bogeys.

In similar fashion to the storyline in the Super Senior Division, the younger Senior leaders would eventually only separate themselves by one-stroke to finish as champions and runners-up. Eventual champions Van Herpe and Pouliot would post a 1-under 70, edging runners-up Field and Mitchell by a single stroke. Despite fine play by several teams in the Senior Division, Arizona residents Jeff New and Phil Phinny posted the low Senior round of the day, a solid 3-under 68, allowing them to grab fourth place.

Despite difficult weather conditions, the Trans-Miss Golf Association and host Forest Highlands were able to contest each round of the championship as originally intended. A significant thank you goes out to the golf course agronomy staff at Forest Highlands’ Canyon Course, whose tireless efforts allowed the championship to be played in great conditions. Further, the Trans-Miss Golf Association extends its thanks to the membership and staff at Forest Highlands for their collective efforts in hosting the championship and being gracious hosts throughout.

TRANSMISS

2017 Championships



18th Trans-Miss Senior
Eldorado Country Club
Indian Wells, CA
May 22-25



114th Trans-Miss Amateur
Prairie Dunes Country Club
Hutchinson, KS
July 10-13



37th Trans-Miss
Four-Ball
Bayonet Black Horse
Seaside, CA
September 11-14

NEWS

Member Clubs Receive Funding for Summer Agronomy Internships



Seventeen Trans-Mississippi Golf Association Member Clubs will receive funds to bolster their grounds crews and agronomy staffs this summer as part of the 2017 Club Turf Internship Program.

For more than half a century, the TMGA has awarded scholarships to students pursuing careers in agronomy through U.S. college programs. Three years ago, the TMGA expanded its Turf Scholarship Fund to include the Club Turf Internship Program.

Grants in the amount of \$3,500-\$7,500 each were awarded to the selected clubs after a vetting process conducted by the TMGA Turf Scholarship Committee. A total of \$82,500 will be allocated between the clubs this year. The program aims to provide additional resources to clubs' agronomy staffs through summer internships. Additionally, the hope is the students expand their skillsets, experience and network of contacts by working with some of the best superintendents at the finest facilities across the country.

Horseshoe Bay Resort in the Texas Hill Country was one of the clubs that received a grant from the Turf Scholarship Fund in 2016. Ken Gorzycki, CGCS, is Horseshoe Bay's Director of Agronomy. He was a Trans-Miss Turf Scholarship recipient in the late 1970s during his undergraduate studies at Texas A&M. He said the 2016 Trans-Miss funds allowed him to reward Horseshoe Bay's 13-week summer intern Calvin Watson for all his hard work last year.

"What goes around comes around," Gorzycki said. "The Trans-Miss was there for me when I was in need, and I'm happy to be able to help young people who were in my situation."

Gorzycki said Watson – also a Texas A&M student in the Turf Grass Science program – was exposed to everything his grounds crew does to keep Horseshoe Bay's 72 holes in prime condition year-round. From aerification and bunker upkeep to mowing greens, tees and fairways and performing daily maintenance on mowers and other

equipment, Watson received a well-rounded experience at Horseshoe Bay, site of the 2004 Trans-Miss Four-Ball Championship.

"The amount of knowledge I gained from Ken and his staff will stick with me forever," Watson said. "I am coming up on my sixth year in the golf industry and Ken has been one of the best mentors I have had. He did a wonderful job making sure either he or one of his assistants made sure I understood what I was doing."

At the end of the summer, Watson received an extra bonus from Horseshoe Bay – courtesy of the Trans-Miss Club Turf Internship Program.

"We wanted to pass the funding on to the interns," Gorzycki said. "We didn't want to get anything out of it monetarily. The support from the Trans-Miss certainly allowed us to pay him more than we would have been able to. Calvin was a great intern and helped us quite a bit. The program definitely benefited both of us."

Association-wide, the interns who benefit from the TMGA Club Turf Internship Program are recent graduates or current students pursuing degrees from accredited universities in turf management and/or agronomy. As always, the participating clubs are among the most distinguished in the country.

2017 Fund Recipients:

- Boone Valley Golf Club, Augusta, Mo.
- Cherry Hills Country Club, Cherry Hills Village, Colo.
- Crooked Stick Golf Club, Carmel, Ind.
- Denver Country Club, Denver, Colo.
- Forest Highlands, Flagstaff, Ariz.
- Hideaway Golf Club, La Quinta, Calif.
- The Honors Course, Ooltewah, Tenn.
- Houston Country Club, Houston, Texas
- Horseshoe Bay Resort, Horseshoe Bay, Texas
- Kansas City Country Club, Mission Hills, Kan.
- Los Angeles Country Club, Los Angeles, Calif.
- Meadowbrook Farms Golf Club, Katy, Texas
- The Olympic Club, San Francisco, Calif.
- Ridglea Country Club, Fort Worth, Texas
- Royal Oaks Country Club, Dallas, Texas
- Wichita Country Club, Wichita, Kan.
- Wolf Creek Country Club, Olathe, Kan.

For more information on the TMGA Club Turf Internship Program, [click here](#).

MEET

Introducing New 2017 Trans-Miss Board Members

David Derminio (Carefree, AZ)

Dave has spent all but three years of his business career in the medical device sector, primarily in sports medicine and orthopedic surgery.

He is currently the Executive VP of Commercialization for Myosience, his fourth medical technology venture. He graduated from Arizona State University in 1974 and played on the Sun Devil Golf Team from 1972-74. He is currently a member of the Sun Devil Club with a primary responsibility for raising funds to support the Men's Golf Program.

Dave was responsible for the first Biomechanical Analysis of the Golf Swing Research Project with Dr. Frank Jobe, which led to the placement of the first fitness trailers on the PGA Tour.

He served on the USGA Junior Amateur Championship for 13 years, the Executive Committees for the Board of Directors of the Arizona Golf Association and the Junior Golf Association of Arizona.

He was the founder of the AJGA Heather Farr Classic in 1999 and a member of the AJGA Tournament Committee. He also served on various country clubs, green, membership and special advisory committees.

He is currently a member of Desert Forest Golf Club in Carefree, Ariz. Dave has qualified for two USGA Mid-Amateur Championships.

In 2001, he and his son Michael became the first father and son to qualify for the same U.S. Amateur in nearly 50 years.

Dave has won numerous state, regional and local championships, including nine club championships.

Dave and his wife Maria will be married for 40 years on March 26. They have six children: Christina (37), Michael (36), Stephen (28), Nicole (24), Matthew (22) and Lauren (19).

Carl Horsch (Eden Prairie, MN)

Carl is a Wealth Management Advisor for The Private Client Reserve of U.S. Bank, where he helps clients work toward their financial goals.

Carl connects clients with the comprehensive wealth management services available in The Private Client Reserve, including Investment Management, Private Banking, Trust and Estate Services and Wealth Planning.

Carl has worked in the banking and financial services industry since 1980. Prior to joining The Private Client Reserve, Carl was a Managing Director for Wealth Management's Wayzata office.

Carl is a life-long resident of the Twin Cities. He attended St. Thomas Academy and the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minn. He served on the Alumni Board at the University of St. Thomas from 2006-12 and is a Board member for Coffee House Press.

In his free time, Carl volunteers with the Mustang District of the Northern Council of the BSA as Training Chair. He served on the membership committee for Hazeltine National Golf Course from 2008-15.

He resides in Eden Prairie with his wife Heidi and is an avid golfer.

Robert Link (Denver, CO)

Robert grew up in Boulder, Colo., and participated in junior golf. He also was a caddie at Boulder Country Club.

He graduated from Boulder High School in 1974 and attended the University of Nebraska, where he played football for two seasons under Tom Osborne.

After tearing up a knee in an era when repairing/replacing a torn ACL was not yet possible, he returned to Boulder and graduated from the University of Colorado in 1979. Rob then received his JD from Pepperdine University School of Law in 1982 and was associated with the law firm of Girardi Keese & Crane until June of 1985.

In July of 1985, he left the practice of law and embarked on his real estate career with what is now CBRE.

Rob is a member of Colorado Bar Association, Downtown Denver Partnership, United Way Tocqueville Society and very active with Adam's Camp.

In 2008, he was named by DMCAR as the Office Broker of the Year. He is a member at Cherry Hills Country Club in Denver, Colorado, as well as Desert Mountain in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Rob has been married to his wife Sharon for 31 years and has three children: Tyler (27), Ryan (25) and Tori (20).



TRANSMISS



TRANSMISS

Senior Championship

Save the Date – May 22nd-25th, 2017
Eldorado Country Club – Indian Wells, CA



The 18th Trans-Mississippi Senior Championship will be held May 22nd-25th at Eldorado Country Club in Indian Wells, CA. The 54-hole stroke play competition will be contested at one of California's premier private clubs, designed by Tom Fazio.

Registration for the 2017 Championship will open online Tuesday, February 28th at 9 am (CST)

ELIGIBILITY

Entries are open to male amateur golfers who have reached their 55th birthday on or before May 23rd, 2017. Applicants must have a USGA handicap index of 4.0 or less (10.0 or less in Super Senior and 12.0 or less in the Legends) and be a member of a Trans-Miss member club. Players in the Super Senior division must be 65 or older and players in the Legends division must be 70 or older by the start of the first round of competition. Players must be a member of a Trans-Miss Member Club or make an annual contribution (\$100) to the Trans-Miss Golf Association and Turf Scholarship Fund.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Monday, May 22 nd	Practice Round & Player Reception
Tuesday, May 23 rd	Round 1
Wednesday, May 24 th	Round 2
Thursday, May 25 th	Round 3 & Awards Ceremony

WHAT'S INCLUDED

The entry fee for the Trans-Miss Senior Championship is \$625. The entry fee includes greens, cart, and range fees for the practice round and all championship rounds. The entry fee also includes championship gifts at registration and food/beverage at the Player Reception.

ABOUT THE TRANSMISS

Established in 1901, the Trans-Mississippi Golf Association is comprised of over 200 member clubs located throughout the country. In addition to conducting three annual championships, the Trans-Miss also awards over \$82,000 annually to aspiring golf course superintendents through the Turf Scholarship Fund. The Association is governed by a board of independent directors and is headquartered in Dallas, TX.

EVENT



Eldorado Country Club

Historic Courses Set to Host 2017 Trans-Miss Championships

The first two legs of the Trans-Mississippi Golf Association's 2017 competitive season take the country's best senior amateurs to an idyllic Californian venue and the nation's top collegiate stars and mid-amateurs to the Midwest for a taste of Scottish links in America's Heartland.

The 18th playing of the Trans-Miss Senior is set for May 22-25 at Eldorado Country Club in Indian Wells, Calif. One of the first courses built in the Coachella Valley – now a golf mecca with nearly 125 courses – Eldorado was designed by Lawrence Hughes and opened in 1957. Two years later, Eldorado hosted the Ryder Cup, won by U.S. Captain Sam Snead's squad, 8½-3½. Tom Fazio gave the course a complete renovation in 2003. The club this year celebrates its 60th anniversary.

The residential track set in a wind-shielded cove at the foot of the majestic Santa Rosa Mountains, Eldorado was one of four Palm Springs courses to play host to the PGA Tour's Bob Hope Desert Classic from 1970-90. Former U.S. President Dwight Eisenhower used Eldorado Country Club as his "Winter White House," during his years as the 34th Commander-in-Chief. Post-

administration, Eisenhower made his permanent home just off Eldorado's 11th hole.

A 54-hole stroke play event, the Trans-Miss Senior features a 144-player field with three divisions: Seniors (55 years & older), Super Seniors (65 & older) and Legends (70 & older). Each age group division plays from separate tees; three separate champions will be crowned. After 36 holes, the field will be cut to the low 78 scores, including ties with a proportionate representation from each division.

Entries to the event are open now. They close on May 10 at 5 p.m. CDT. For more detailed information on the Trans-Miss Senior Amateur Championship, [click here](#).

Eldorado, a par-71 track that plays to 6,634 yards, had new greens installed in 2016. Director of Golf Terry Beardsley expects the Bermuda Tiffdwurf surfaces to play a determining factor in the tournament's outcome.

"The greens are very firm," Beardsley said. "The golf course is fair and not overly long. It's a very playable course. It'll come down to putting."

More than anything else, Beardsley says the club members call the

Eldorado course, "fun." As in, it's a course you can play every day and be entertained. It's fairly tight off the tees, but it's not so demanding that it will "beat you up," Beardsley added. In addition to deft work with the flat sticks, Beardsley said he favors the chances of players who are most precise with their irons.

"You can't short-side yourself here," he said. "You're not going to get it up-and-down – unless you make a 20-footer."

Although it's an altogether different style of course, the short side also is problematic at Prairie Dunes Country Club, site of the 114th Trans-Miss Amateur Championship. Scheduled for July 10-13, the event this year moves away from the pervasive fog and cool temperatures at The Olympic Club in San Francisco to the strong winds and stifling heat of the Midwest.

"A little bit of Scotland in the Land of Oz," eight-time major champion Tom Watson famously said about Prairie Dunes. "Sunflowers instead of heather, oceans of grain instead of the sea. But, like Scotland, be prepared because the wind always blows."

Landlocked in almost the exact center of the continental U.S.,

EVENT

Hutchinson, Kan., might be the last place in the world one would expect to find a links-style course. With its sandy soil, constant wind, rolling hills covered in native grasses and intricate green complexes, Prairie Dunes plays much like those famous seaside links in East Lothian. Perry Maxwell, one of the fathers of American golf course architecture, designed and built the first nine holes in 1937. Twenty years after it opened, Maxwell's son, J. Press, designed the second nine in 1957.

Prairie Dunes is a par 70 that plays a deceptively long 6,940 yards. Six of the par 4s measure longer than 440 yards, for example, including the 535-yard 11th, which plays downwind. Two more par 4s stretch to 400-plus yards.

"We've hosted several tournaments and people look at the scorecard and think it's not that long," said Scott Nelson, Prairie Dunes' General Manager. "It's deceiving. We have some monster par 4s and the difficulties come on and around the greens."

Nelson said Prairie Dunes is a second-shot course. The sight lines are fairly generous off the tees, however several areas with 6-foot-tall native grasses – known to members as "the gunch" – are quick to gobble up errant drives. Driving the ball into the fairway is the first challenge, but nearly as important is finding the correct angle into the diabolical green complexes, turfed with a mixture of A1 and A4 bentgrass.

Extremely undulated and typically on the smaller side, the greens are kept between 10-10.5 on the Stimpmeter for member play. The tilted, tricky nature of the greens – combined with stiff winds – offer a thorough examination of players' skills and patience.

"Short-siding yourself is not a good option," Nelson said. "There are lots of roll offs and false fronts. If you miss the green just slightly, you might have a 5- to 8-yard rollout, kind of like what you see at Pinehurst. Then you'll have fairly tight lies to chip it back up."

Prairie Dunes has a rich history of hosting elite championships, especially the amateur variety. This summer will mark the sixth Trans-Miss Amateur Championship held at the prestigious club, which also welcomed the tournament in 1958, '73, '87, '96 and 2005. The NCAA Men's Championship was played there in 2014, as were the 2006 U.S. Senior Open, 2002 U.S. Women's Open, 1995 U.S. Senior Amateur and 1988 U.S. Mid-Amateur. Prairie Dunes has hosted the U.S. Women's Amateur three times – 1964, '80 and '91 – as well as the 1986 Curtis Cup.

The format of the Trans-Miss Championship calls for 72 holes of stroke play. The 144-player field will be cut to the low 54 scores (including ties) following the second round. The final 36 holes will be played in succession on the final day of the tournament, mirroring most collegiate championship formats. For more information on the 114th Trans-Miss Amateur Championship, [click here](#).



Prairie Dunes Country Club

NEWS



Will Zalatoria



Collin Morikawa

Former Trans-Miss Champions Among Walker Cup Hopefuls

LOS ANGELES, Calif.—Two former Trans-Mississippi Championship winners highlighted a group of the top amateurs in the country that met last December for a practice session for U.S. Walker Cup hopefuls.

Wake Forest junior Will Zalatoris, a two-time Trans-Miss champion from Dallas, and California-Berkeley sophomore Collin Morikawa, the 2015 Trans-Miss victor from La Canada Flintridge, Calif., joined U.S. Walker Cup Captain John “Spider” Miller at Los Angeles Country Club for the practice session. The celebrated biennial matches are scheduled for Sept. 9-10, on the North Course at Los Angeles Country Club.

In all, half of the 16 U.S. Walker Cup practice session participants have Trans-Miss Championship experience. Miller will reveal the final 10 players comprising the U.S. team after the U.S. Amateur in mid-August.

“In addition to finding the best golf courses in America to host the Trans-Miss Championship, one of the goals each year is to assemble the strongest fields possible,” said Cam Crawford, Tournament Director for all three Trans-Mississippi Golf Association championships. “We want the best amateurs in the world to play the Trans-Miss Championship. The fact that eight of our former players – and two past champions – are being considered for the U.S. Walker Cup team speaks volumes about the type of talent showcased annually at the Trans-Miss Championship.”

In addition to Zalatoris and Morikawa, other Walker Cup practice attendees with Trans-Miss Championship experience included Oklahoma sophomore and 2016 U.S. Amateur runner-up Brad Dalke, Stanford senior Maverick McNealy, the No. 1 player in the World Amateur Golf Rankings, and UNLV junior John Oda. Three University of Texas golfers who have played in Trans-Miss Championships also took part in the Walker Cup practice: senior Gavin Hall, the 2016 Porter Cup runner-up, junior Scottie Scheffler, the 2015 Big 12 Individual Champion and Freshman of the Year, and junior Doug Ghim, a 2016 Jack Nicklaus Award semifinalist.

All of the former Trans-Miss players at the recent U.S. Walker Cup practice session finished in the top 30 of the 113th Trans-Miss Championship at The Olympic Club in San Francisco. Zalatoris in July won the Trans-Miss Championship with a 72-hole total of 6-under 274. Ghim finished third, Oda tied for fourth and Scheffler tied for eighth place.

The U.S. Walker Cup team will have revenge in mind at the 2017 matches. Great Britain & Ireland won the 2015 Walker Cup, 16½-9½, at Royal Lytham & St. Annes Golf Club in Lancashire, England. For more information about the recent U.S. Walker Cup team practice, [click here](#).

For more information on the Trans-Miss Golf Association and its championships, [click here](#).

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