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2008 Trans-Miss Four-Ball Championships

Team gets in, goes distance at Bandon Dunes



■ Bandon Dunes Resort was a popular destination for the Trans-Mississippi Golf Association's fall Four-Ball Championships. So popular that Joey Gullion (r) and Brent Mumford(l) had to rely on another entry's late withdrawal to open up their spot in the 58-team mid-am field.

And now they're extremely glad they made it.

Cont'd on page 3

Greetings

Dear Trans-Miss Supporters,



■ I woke up today and realized that it was not a dream. Four days at Bandon Dunes Golf Resort in October for the Trans-Mississippi Four-Ball Championship was an unbelievable experience.

The beauty of the Oregon coast combined with the gorse-covered sand dunes and evergreen forest makes this 54-hole golf complex a “must-do” for any serious golfer. If you don’t have the time to play the great courses of Scotland and Ireland, a trip to Bandon Dunes will give you the same conditions (including the weather’s ability to give you sun, rain, fog, calm and wind all in one round!).

■ Our thanks go out to the ownership and staff of Bandon Dunes Golf Resort for hosting our 2008 Four-Ball event. By using two golf courses each day we were able to expand the field to over 90 teams. Each team was able to play each of the three resort courses during the championship. While the three golf courses are confined to 1,200 acres, they are distinctly different and our players thoroughly enjoyed the scenery and the challenge. And when we were not on the golf courses, the hospitality and service of the professional and support staff was truly outstanding.

■ The generosity of Bandon Dunes allowed us to raise enough money to fund one-half of our 2008-09 turf scholarships, which have been increased by 80% over previous years. Bandon Dunes and Kemper Sports are leaders in the industry in the support of amateur golf!

■ Please enjoy the coverage of the event in the pages of this issue of the Transcript.

■ For our championship players, please note the date and location of our 2009 events: the match play championship will be at Flint Hills National Golf Club (Wichita, Kansas), June 22-28 and the four-ball championship at Cherry Hills Country Club (Denver, Colorado), September 21-24. We hope that

you will be able to participate and enjoy these golf clubs of national reputation.

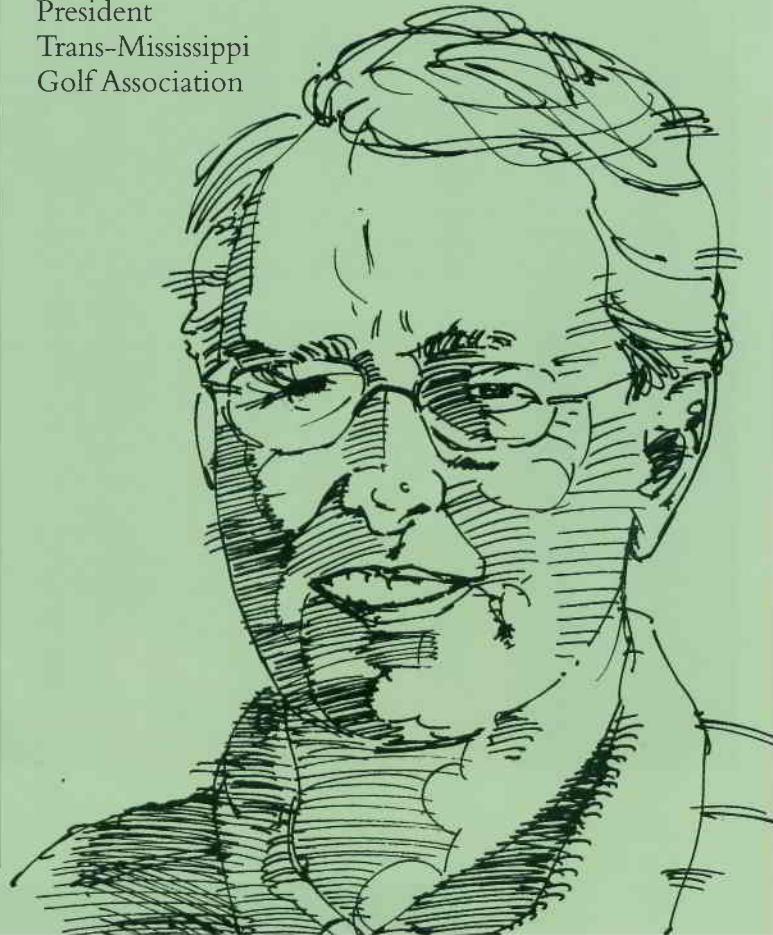
■ Finally, I should state that with the current climate in the financial markets our Trans-Mississippi Turf Scholarship Fund has experienced some setbacks like any portfolio. But fortunately, our diversified assets are weathering the storm and our ability to provide scholarships will not be harmed. Of course, we are always pleased to receive donations from anyone wanting to help future golf course superintendents.

■ My fellow directors and I thank you for your past and continuing support in our mission!

Best regards,

Hank Wilkinson

Hank Wilkinson
President
Trans-Mississippi
Golf Association



■ Gullion, a 10-year veteran of the PGA, Nike and Canadian tours, and Mumford, a former U.S. Military Academy golfer, blistered the three Bandon courses in rounds of 67-63-67 and walked away with an eight-shot victory in the 28th annual event held along the southwest coast of Oregon.

■ "It's big for Brent and I because we're best friends and we don't get to do this very often so it's nice for us to spend a week up here just hanging out and playing golf," Gullion said. "To get to win a golf tournament like this, with a lot of good winners in the past. We were fortunate that they let us in at the very last minute... We actually were talking on the 17th hole what a tremendous job the Trans-Miss did putting the golf tournament on, three different courses, two different divisions, it's not easy getting everything set up and it was awesome." After they reeled off an impressive eight-under 63 on the Pacific Dunes course during the second round, Gullion and Mumford enjoyed a four-stroke margin headed into the final round to be played on the Bandon Dunes course. There, the longtime friends would battle the elements as much as they would the charges of any competitors.

■ "The weather was interesting today...it was warm when we started and then every time it would rain on us for about a hole, three or four times, (then) it got a little bit colder," said Gullion, now playing out of Redstone Golf Club in Houston. "Brent played very solid today. I took a few holes off early in the

round today and then played better the back nine. For the last three days we both played really solid and had very few holes where we both didn't have birdie putts..."

Mumford, playing out of Conway Farms Golf Club near Chicago, said foremost in the team's success in its first Tran-Miss appearance was seldom leaving either player alone on a hole.

■ "That was the key, neither one of us was ever really out of a hole leaving the other person naked, playing solo," he said.

■ During their second-round 63, Mumford said he made a lot of pars and that left his partner going for birdie.

■ "...I just put him in a position where he could be aggressive and he was whooptee. He was making everything from all over the place," said Mumford, who is in the construction business and said he picked the game back up the last five years. "I was just there reading putts and making pars."

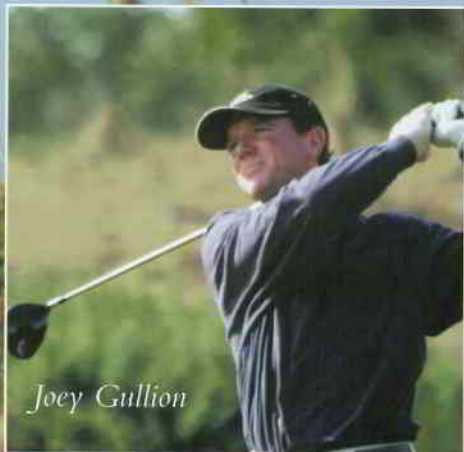
■ With his partner hitting first and putting the ball in the fairway and on the Bandon greens, it made things a little easier for Gullion, who took a few years away from the game before re-gaining his amateur status and playing more the last two years. "It's very easy when someone is on the fairway or on the green, on the par 3's particularly, because they get pretty frightening with the wind," Gullion revealed. "Brent was always in perfect position so I could be very aggressive. We were both just hitting it well and it was one of those things that worked out really

well. Brent was very disciplined about getting it in the middle of the fairways and the middle of the greens so I could be aggressive and I could have my fits of birdies and bogeys and Brent just parred them half to death."

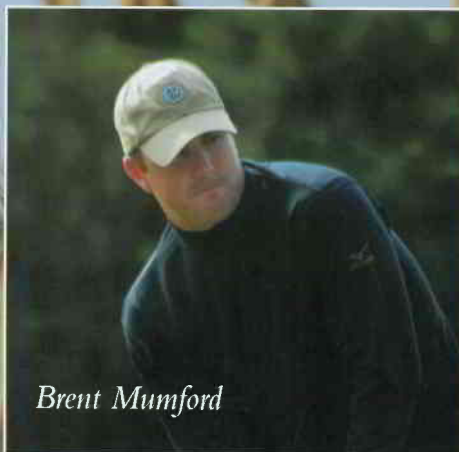
■ The 37-year-olds opened the championship with an afternoon round on the Bandon Trails course and managed a 67 despite the windy conditions.

■ "We teed off in the afternoon and it was really windy and we just kind of fought our way around," Mumford said. "We really kind of scraped (by) and made one or two birdies coming in. (The three courses) play entirely different. Yesterday was really the difference because Joey made so many birdies out there on Pacific Dunes."

■ Three teams tied for third place in the mid-am division including Kevin Kobalter of San Rafael, Calif., and Gary Young of San Carlos, Calif. (68-67-70); Gene Elliott and 2008 Trans-Miss Match Play champion Mike McCoy of West Des Moines, Iowa (67-68-70); and Todd Palmaer of Corona Del Mar, Calif., and David Nelson of Reno, Nev. (70-64-71).



Joey Gullion



Brent Mumford



Senior team repeats

■ For Scottsdale, Ariz.'s Roger Brown winning Trans-Miss senior titles is becoming old hat. Brown, 64, won his third straight, teaming with Bill Heldmar to repeat as Four-Ball champions after a playoff victory on the resort's Pacific Dunes course. With a birdie on the home hole, the team found itself tied with third-round playing competitors Jay Leonard and Steve Bell at 12-under 202. Bell and Leonard shot a closing five-under 66 to Heldmar and Brown's 67.

■ The teams returned to Pacific Dunes' first hole where Brown rolled in a lengthy birdie putt to end the playoff quickly and give his team the title. It was the second birdie for the team at No. 1 on the day.

■ "I drove the ball a little further than the other guys, and had it in the rough," Brown said. "Put it about 20 feet above the hole, something like that. Bill had it inside of me, and the other guys rolled their putts from off the green up for kick-in pars. And I made my putt. Bill said, 'Well gosh; I knew I was going to make mine.' And I said, 'You knew better than I did.'"

■ Heldmar, 67 and in the oil and gas business, said he was happy to see Brown's putt go in but liked his own chances to make birdie.

■ "I didn't have to putt and I had the putt," he said. "After we won today, I called my wife and she reminded me we'd defended our championship. I had forgotten about that, truthfully. But I have a wonderful partner."

■ Heldmar, who also won the senior title with Brown in 1999 at Chaparral Pines and The Rim in Payson, Ariz., saw his team walk to the 54th tee needing birdie just to get in the playoff as Leonard and Bell had moved a stroke in front.

■ "We're teeing off on 18 and we're one shot down, and as I was telling Roger earlier, I had absolutely no fear that we were going to lose, I don't know how," said Heldmar, who won the Trans-Miss Four-ball in 1992 with partner Eric Mueller at Tulsa's Southern Hills. "I knew that something would happen.

It did...Roger made a wonderful birdie at 18 from probably 25 feet or so and that sent us into the playoff." Brown, a banker in Arizona and Oklahoma who teamed with Heldmar to win the 2007 Trans

Four-Ball at Monterey Peninsula Country Club, said the two started the third round quickly.

■ "We were playing great, we were four under after eight," Brown said. "We ran into a couple of those rain showers and derailed ourselves a little bit. The guys we're playing with played well on the back nine." Heldmar said the wind and rain made for some of the most difficult conditions he'd ever played.

■ "We were playing one par 3, it's 136 yards and I'm having to hit a 5-iron," the Tulsan said. "The wind and rain felt like ice pellets hitting you." Brown, the Trans Senior Match Play champion this summer at The Wakonda Club in Des Moines, and Heldmar, opened championship play with a six-under 66 on the Bandon Dunes course and followed that up with a two-under 69 at Bandon Trails to put themselves in the final pairing with Leonard of Hollis, N.H. and Denver's Bell. But, according to Heldmar, the team struggled on the Bandon Dunes greens each round.

■ "We missed an awfully lot of putts, short putts," he said. "Both of us did. Roger left it right on the lip several times. But Roger played absolutely beautifully. He drove it so



well the three days and that was one of the keys. He never had it in the rough, until the playoff hole, and he still made birdie.”

■ Identical rounds of 69-68-66 were good enough for third place in the senior division for the teams of Chris Maletis of Portland, Ore., and Atlanta's Jerry Greenbaum, and Scottsdale's Charles Hikes and Allen Sharpe.

Bandon Dunes embraces Trans, amateur golf

■ It appears the Trans-Miss has found a regular championship schedule stop in Bandon Dunes as players enjoyed a memorable week at a facility that takes pride in hosting important golf events, especially those that include amateur players.

■ “We’re all about amateur golf, having people like you here that are really devoted to the sport,” Bandon Dunes General Manager Hank Hickox told guests at the players’ dinner during championship week. “Having a group of this prestige is a really great honor to all of us that work here...”

■ Hickox took the opportunity to

joke with players about the “lack” of wind they saw the first day of championship play, calling it “the Irish experience.” He also gave them some tips on links golf, “There wasn’t a lot of wind today...let’s pick up the pace, keep it low and putt the ball from 100 yards out – that’s the bump and run.”

■ Hickox told attendees Bandon Dunes hosts about 100,000 rounds of golf each year on its three courses. A fourth course at the 2,000-acre facility, Old MacDonald, has about 11 holes completed and is scheduled to open for play in 2010.

■ “We’re going to have some preview play in June of 2009,” he added.

■ The club is the dream of Michael Keiser, who co-founded the Recycled Paper Greetings Co. With a master plan for five golf courses and having opened its first in May of 1999, Bandon Dunes employs approximately 550 and has a caddy staff of nearly 350, according to Hickox. He reported guests come from all parts of the United States, with southern California the highest single market area.

■ “This is more a passion and labor of love than it is a business for

Mr. Keiser,” Hickox told Trans players. “That’s why we’re privileged to be able to operate the way we do and to embrace future events like we have and we will continue to embrace amateur events as we go forward.”

■ Bandon Dunes has approximately 280 rooms available with its 186 keys, Hickox said. Long-term, the resort will include approximately 75 rooms per golf course. The facility has four restaurants with a fifth planned. A commissary is under construction and a fitness complex could be in the offing.

■ “We don’t use the word spa here – the ladies probably noticed that,” he said. “But we’re talking about building a sports fitness complex...”

For 38-year-old John Grothe it’s about the golf. Grothe, head professional at Bandon Dunes until 2005 when he took the title of director of golf, said the quality of the golf courses sets Bandon Dunes apart.

■ “It’s truly unique to find three golf courses so highly ranked right next to each other and have so many quality things about them,” said Grothe, who knows a thing or two about top-ranked golf having worked at Pebble Beach Golf Links



before coming to Bandon. "...being associated with that quality personally has been very fulfilling and enriching."

■ The Trans-Miss joining in that experience was obviously something Grothe and his staff enjoyed as they played host to 90 two-man teams.

"The Trans-Miss is obviously a fantastic organization and Bandon Dunes has made a commitment to amateur golf," he said. "This is our third 'major' event; we've had the Curtis Cup and the Mid-Amateur last year won by Trip Kuehne. That shows our commitment to amateur golf and the best thing for us is that these 90 teams are going to be ambassadors for our brand of golf and for our resort."

■ And Trans Four-Ball participants got the October Bandon Dunes experience with firm, fast playing conditions and Mother Nature's moodiness along the Oregon coast.

■ "We actually hope for a little bit of weather, a little bit of wind, maybe a little bit of spitting rain to make you feel that unique and traditional type of playing the game on the links," Grothe explained. "There are no homes, no houses, no buildings of any kind that interfere with the golf experience. It's for every person's own interpretation to feel

what 'pure' golf is, but it's definitely the closest thing I've ever found."

Kansas golfers relish round with Elway

■ Kansans Chris Hutchens and Dane Ogden had the right attitude as they headed for the southwest coast of Oregon to play in the 2008 Trans-Mississippi Four-Ball Championships at Bandon Dunes. The two buddies planned to enjoy themselves while competing in the event as Ogden celebrated one of those milestone birthdays.

■ And if playing three rounds of links golf with your best friend at one of America's premier golf destinations wasn't enough, imagine the delight the duo had when they played their first round of the event in a pairing that included NFL Hall of Famer and Super Bowl MVP John Elway.

■ "It was my birthday to begin with, and my 50th birthday, and to be able to play on my 50th birthday with John Elway...I was kind of star struck," Ogden admitted. "I knew about it for a month or so, or when ever the pairings came out. When I got out (on the course), it was pretty heavy."

■ Fortunately the Kansas amateur golfers were able to overcome some early nerves and settle into their round with the NFL legend. The two said they found the former Broncos' QB to be very supportive and more of a "regular guy" than they could have anticipated.

■ "We didn't look at him as a golfer," Hutchens said. "We were visiting the night before, maybe even the week before, saying to ourselves, how sports fans do, that arguably this is one of the greatest quarterbacks to play the game. Then for him to turn out to be such a genuine person was a real treat for Dane's birthday."

Ogden said he struggled early in the round and said he thought Elway probably sensed that.

■ "I think he knew I was struggling. He would say things just to try to make me feel a little more comfortable, maybe I'm way off, but I got that feeling," said Ogden, whose brother John is a professional at Denver's Cherry Hills, Elway's home club. "He would come over in the



■ What goes around comes around. At least that's what we've all been told. For Bandon Dunes Director of Agronomy Ken Nice that was true earlier this month as the former Trans-Mississippi Golf Association scholarship recipient hosted the organization's annual fall Four-ball Championship.

■ Nice, now is in charge of three (and soon to be four) golf courses at one of the country's leading golf resorts, had a chance during the championship to think about the time he returned to school to study turf some seven years after getting his first under-graduate degree.

■ "(The scholarship) is extremely helpful when you're in college and barely scraping by," the 44-year-old Nice said as he recalled the Trans assistance he and wife of 17 years, Pam, received back in the mid-90s. "It was \$2,000 and by certain standards it's not a lot, but for my wife and me it was huge at the time. It was like, 'Okay, we've got a little breathing room.' We made sacrifices for (me) to go back and get a (turf) degree. It was very timely money and I'm still very appreciative of it."

Pure golf along Oregon's coast

■ After completing his turf degree at Oregon State and spending a couple years as an assistant superintend-

ent at Astoria (Ore.) Golf and Country Club, Nice moved to Bandon Dunes about 10 years ago. He's been at the resort ever since and has seen it grow into one of the nation's leading golf destinations.

■ Nice says the maintenance staff has grown to 93 members now, including a superintendent at each of the Bandon Dunes, Pacific Dunes and Bandon Trails courses and one in charge of common grounds and the practice facility at the resort. Each course has an assistant superintendent, spray tech and irrigation tech.

■ "The majority of (the staff) is full-time because we are open year-round," Nice says. "During the winter months and 'off-season' we are able to go get capital projects done, things we can't do when there is a lot of golf."

■ The common thread in turf for Nice's three courses is the fine fescue/colonial bentgrass mix, with the emphasis on the fine fescue, he reports.

■ "It's a low-input turf type that requires less water, less fertilizer, less mowing than traditional United States turf types -- rye grass, bentgrass, Kentucky bluegrass. We are more common with Scotland and the UK with our turf types," Nice says.

■ The fescue allows for fewer changes in course preparation when it comes to getting greens ready for

big championships like the Trans-Miss, the USGA's Mid-Amateur, held at the course last year, and the 2006 Curtis Cup.

■ "We normally are able to mow greens every other day with rolling in between as opposed to daily mowing," Nice says. "That's one of things with fine fescue, the slow growth. So, during the Mid-Am and the Curtis Cup, we just mowed every day, did not drop heights, turned the water off, dried it out and we were able to achieve the green speeds we were after."

Old MacDonald opens in 2010

■ If 54 holes of golf on stunning seaside links aren't enough, the folks at Bandon Dunes will roll out 18 more in 2010 when the Old MacDonald course opens. The layout will include 100 percent fescue grass, according to Nice. It will also give resort guests another challenge and chance to experience "pure" golf on the Oregon coast.

■ "It's a marriage of natural elements -- sand, sea, wind and the golf architecture on the three, soon to be four, courses reflects that," Nice says. "It's a chance to experience true links golf that I don't believe you can elsewhere other than the UK."



Former Trans-Miss Scholar hosts Association's Four-Ball

fairway when we were waiting and make conversation. (But) he's a good golfer...he's phenomenal, that's what I couldn't believe. He has so much confidence in himself...there's no fear. He has total trust in what he's doing."

■ After Ogden and Hutchens had completed their round on the Bandon Trails course, they joined Elway in the clubhouse for drinks and lunch.

■ "He seemed so down to earth, he says 'Hutch, you want another beer? I want another beer,'" Hutchens recalled. "And I'm like 'John Elway wants me to have another beer.' Yeah, I'll have another beer." Ogden reported when the check came, Elway immediately grabbed it and said "I'll get your lunch for your birthday."

■ "How cool is that? Fifty years old and John Elway is buying me lunch," Ogden beamed. "That's pretty awesome."

■ Though it probably mattered little after their memorable week, Hutchens and Ogden finished in a tie for 53rd at the Trans-Miss event after rounds of 77-74-74 on the

three Bandon Dunes courses. Elway and partner Jimmie Melton had rounds of 68-71-72 and tied for 11th.

■ Elway, 48 and having played in the Trans-Miss in 1995 at Houston's River Oaks, said he enjoyed playing amateur golf and playing in the Four-Ball at Bandon Dunes, a facility he'd been to once before, was an opportunity he could not pass up.

■ "I know this is one of the best tournaments and I just haven't had the time to be able to do it to this point," said Elway, coming off knee replacement surgery last November.

■ "I've got a good partner this time and (I) decided to come out and play, so we're glad to be here. But I enjoy playing in these because you have to count every shot and it makes your game better. That kind of replaces football for me in the fact you get to compete...there are a lot of good players out here and it's a good challenge."

■ And though he plays in several benefit events each year, Elway said he appreciated the chance to participate in an event that helps provide scholarships to aspiring turf

management students.

■ "Any time you get to play competitive golf and raise some money it's always a good thing," he said. "Plus taking care of the people that take care of the golf course, that keep them in the great shape that they are and allow us to go out and play golf. (The Association) and what they raise the money for is a great cause. Face it, any time you can raise money and have fun doing it, it's a double whammy."



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