

The Official Publication of the TGA

# LONE STAR GOLF



## Prelude to a Championship

107<sup>th</sup> *TEXAS* ★ *AMATEUR*  
presented by **Inspirety**



PLAY

# Fair Warning

## This Year's Texas Amateur Venue is as Strong as Oak

Some of the younger players in the field for the 107th Texas Amateur presented by Insperity will look at the total yardage of Oak Hills Country Club's par-71 course and scoff. Only 6,765 yards? *This is going to be easy*, they'll chuckle.

Careful, now. Those who have played the 94-year-old San Antonio gem know it's A.W. Tillinghast who usually gets the last laugh. What Oak Hills lacks in overall length, "Tillie the Terror," as he was known, more than compensated for in design features like tightly chuted fairways framed by massive oaks, sharp doglegs, encroaching water hazards and smallish greens that pitch and

tilt just enough to reject mishit approaches into gnarly, ankle-deep rough. Or worse still, errant shots can finish into one of the 59 links-style, grass-walled bunkers that dot the property, many of them deep enough to bury a compact car.

If that's not warning enough, consider these: the par-4 third hole measures 456 yards; the par-5 fifth is 640 yards, and the par-4 seventh is 458 yards. Then there are holes 11-13, known by members as "Tillie's Run," the most brutal stretch on the course. The 11th is a 450-yard, dogleg-left par-4 that descends a hill before rising to a pushed-up green surrounded by a quartet of cavernous

bunkers. The par-4 12th is a monstrous 474 yards with a narrow, slanted fairway protected by water left and sprawling oaks to the right. That's followed by a nightmarish par 3 that can stretch to 257 yards from the back tee with water short and left of the green. It typically plays into the wind.

Who's laughing now?

"Oak Hills is a tough old girl," said Houston's Mike Booker. "If you don't respect her, she will make your life miserable." Booker would know. He won the 2015 Texas Senior Amateur and 2013 Texas Mid-Amateur Match Play at Oak Hills. He'll be in the field June 16-19 to try and win a third title at the Texas Amateur.

"It has a brilliant design," he said. "I've never played a course that was more of a thinking man's course. You can't fake it out here, and that's the ultimate compliment for a championship course."

Spend a little time with some Oak Hills members - nine holes at twilight will do nicely - and you'll learn a couple things. First, the greens are oh-so-very fast; second, the members have stories. One of the best is a legend about Tillie himself and how he spent his time during course construction in the early 1920s. They say Tillinghast lived for months in a tent near the 10th green - the property's high point - and drank tequila with the locals every night while he wandered the acreage. Whether it's true is anyone's guess, but it could explain a couple architectural twists, such as the massive 100-year-old oak tree smack dab in the middle of the 15th fairway and the twin par 3s that complete the front and back nine loops.

Oak Hills is a course unlike any in Texas to be sure, but the club's litany of high-profile events (and winners) over the years solidify its credibility. Abilene's Charles Coody won

the 1959 Texas Amateur at Oak Hills. Twelve years later he won the Masters. Five-time British Open champion Tom Watson in 1987 won the inaugural PGA Tour Championship at Oak Hills. The 6-iron he used to birdie the par-3 18th hole still hangs in the pro shop. The club played host to the Texas Open from 1961-94, the U.S. Junior Amateur in 2001 and a Champions Tour event from 2002-10. Some of the game's most iconic figures hoisted trophies there, including Arnold Palmer (twice), Lee Trevino, Jay Haas (three times), Hale Irwin, Calvin Peete, Nick Price, John Cook and Corey Pavin. Ben Crenshaw won there twice - the 1972 Texas Amateur and again as a pro at the 1986 Texas Open.

Every former champion will tell you about Oak Hills' thorough and taxing examination, one that commences in mid-June to once again identify the best amateur in Texas. ★

## 107<sup>th</sup> TEXAS AMATEUR

presented by  Insperity

### Notable Players in the Field

Among the many decorated players in the field for the 107th Texas Amateur presented by Insperity is Katy's Michael Cotton, the defending champion from the 106th Texas Amateur at Bent Tree Country Club in Dallas. He will attempt to become the first back-to-back champion since Ryan Baca won the H.L. Edwards Memorial trophy in 2002 and '03.

Plenty of accomplished competitors will look to prevent that, however. Included in that group are the following.

- Scott Abbott, Dallas, 2015 Mid-Amateur Champion
- Wes Artac, Kingwood, 2015 West Texas Amateur Champion
- Zach Atkinson, Colleyville, 2004 Texas Amateur Champion
- John Bearrie, Arlington, 2012 Mid-Amateur Champion
- Mike Booker, The Woodlands, 2015 Senior Amateur Champion
- Rob Couture, Dallas, 2008 Texas Mid-Amateur Champion
- Mason Greenberg, Southlake, 2015 State Junior Champion
- Colby Harwell, San Antonio, 2014 USGA Men's State Team Champion
- Aaron Hickman, Tyler, 2014 USGA Men's State Team Champion
- Clay Hodge, Tyler, 2013 Texas Mid-Amateur Champion
- Joshua Irving, Dallas, 2015 Player of the Year
- Justin Kaplan, Houston, 2015 Mid-Amateur Match Play Champion
- Doug Manor, Dallas, 2013 Texas Amateur Champion
- Stratton Nolen, Austin, 2014 Player of the Year
- Jay Reynolds, Austin, 2015 South Texas Player of the Year
- Danny Simmerman, 2016 South Texas Mid-Amateur Champion

A massive oak guards the approach on the par-5 15th at Oak Hills CC.

WATCH



PLAY

An aerial photograph of Oak Hills Country Club, showing the golf course layout with numerous trees, sand traps, and water hazards. The clubhouse and other buildings are visible in the upper left corner.

# Key Holes

## Picking the Lock on Oak Hills Country Club

Every championship course has a set of critical holes that can determine whether players go low or go home early. Oak Hills Country Club has many that fit the mold, but we've identified five that may ultimately decide the 107th Texas Amateur presented by Insperity.

The short, tricky par-4 sixth; the stretch of 11-13, known as "Tillie's Run;" and the par-3 18th finisher should all have a major influence on the tournament's outcome.

The following pages offer thoughts and advice from three of the best amateurs in Texas, all who have mastered A.W. Tillinghast's unique test. Danny Simmerman, the reigning Oak Hills Club Champion, Colby Harwell, the club's current Stroke Play Champion, and Mike Booker, winner of the 2015 Texas Senior Amateur and 2013 Texas Mid-Amateur Match Play titles at Oak Hills help us pick the locks on Oak Hills' key holes. »



PLAY

# Hole 6

Oak Hills Country Club  
Par 4 | 371 Yards

“If your round is off to a good start, get your par on No. 6 and move on. If you’re off to a shaky start, the hole can be the tripwire to blowing up your round. Either way, it’s critical to use a club that gets you in the fairway. If you knock it in the trees, you might be tempted to hit a hero recovery shot. Bad idea. The green is elevated and guarded by a pond in front, so you can’t run it up. Lay up and take your medicine. If you’re coming out of the rough, even with a clear shot, you won’t have the proper control of the ball when it hits the green. This treacherous green demands specificity as to where your ball is going to end up or you’re ripe to three putt. When the pin is right, you have a backstop. When the pin is left, I go straight at it. Playing it safe to the right gives you a wildly breaking right-to-left putt that you really don’t want.” »

**- Mike Booker**

2015 Texas Senior Amateur &  
2013 Mid-Am Match Play Champion  
at Oak Hills





PLAY

# “Tillie’s Run”

Oak Hills Country Club

A pair of challenging par 4s followed by a long par 3 with water in play comprise Oak Hills’ toughest stretch of holes and helps solidify the architect’s nickname, “Tillie the Terror.” Players who get through Tillie’s Run at even par or better will gain an advantageous position over the field during the 107th Texas Amateur presented by Insperity.



## Hole 11

Par 4 | 450 Yards

“Hole 11 has one of the most difficult tee shots on the course. You don’t need to favor a side of this fairway, just find the short grass. The second shot into this green can be tricky with a downhill lie hitting into a firm, elevated green. Precision is the key to getting close.”

## Hole 12

Par 4 | 474 Yards

“It’s a pretty straightforward tee shot on 12. Just avoid the water on the left and you should be left with a mid-iron into this large green. Avoid the two bunkers that guard the front of the green.”

- Colby Harwell

2015 Oak Hills Stroke Play Club Champion

## Hole 13

Par 3 | 218 Yards

“For most players, this hole calls for a long-iron or a hybrid. The water guards the left side of this green and a large bunker guards the full length of the right side. No matter where they place this pin, don’t hit it long because the comeback putt can be quick.” »



PLAY



# Hole 18

**Oak Hills Country Club**  
**Par 3 | 203 Yards**

“The key is to stay below the hole no matter where the pin is. When the pin is in the middle or front of the green, then birdie is an option with a really well-struck iron. If it is back-right, then you’re trying to figure out how to make par. Missing it short and leaving an uphill pitch is OK, but you have to miss it just left of the grass bunker to have a decent pitch shot. Otherwise, short and right or short and left creates awkward chipping angles. The other factor is the wind can be very sneaky. You can stand on the tee and not feel it, but once the ball gets past the front tee box the wind will carry it farther than you think if it’s downwind. As such, there are times you have to be careful on club selection since you can get another 5 yards of carry with the downhill and the prevailing wind carrying the ball a little farther.” ★

**- Danny Simmerman**  
2015 Oak Hills Match Play Club Champion



# Championship MOMENTS

One moment can define a legacy.

In every golf tournament, there comes a time when something happens that ultimately determines who wins. It could be a split second, or a series of events in a short span, but no major champion gets to the parking lot with the trophy without surviving a moment of truth.

It will happen again during the 107th Texas Amateur presented by Insperity. Set for June 16-19 at Oak Hills Country Club in San Antonio, the state's best amateur will emerge at the end of four days of pressure-packed golf on one of the state's most historic courses.

Last year, Katy's Michael Cotton (above) was 4-over

through eight holes in the final round at Bent Tree CC, six shots off the lead. His dad Steve, caddying for his son on Father's Day, said to him: "I still believe and you need to, too." The pep talk lit a fire in Cotton, who roasted the final 10 holes of the 106th Texas Amateur at Bent Tree with six birdies and an eagle to win by three shots. Steve Cotton's encouraging words became his son's Championship Moment.

In anticipation of this year's version, the next several pages reflect on some of the most memorable Championship Moments in Texas Amateur history. »



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# Championship MOMENTS

## Thomas Birdsey | Trophy Club

2012 Texas Amateur Champion  
Honors Golf Club of Dallas



“I was in the trees on the 14th hole and had to hit a blind, cut-wedge shot under the tree limbs. It came out perfectly, took a hop, hit the pin and dropped to a foot. That was my defining moment. It put me in the position to win with the 18-footer for birdie on the final hole. It was a great feeling to see it go right in the middle of the hole.”



PLAY

# Championship MOMENTS



**Kelly Kraft** | Denton

2008/2011 Texas Amateur Champion  
Houston Country Club/Austin Country Club

“If not for my caddy Boston Brittain, I would’ve only won one Texas Amateur. In 2011, I was ready to hit 8-iron into the final green, which was fronted by a hazard. Boston pulled me off the ball and said it wasn’t enough club. We talked for a minute, and I decided to hit the 7-iron. Good thing I did! I smoked it and it landed a couple yards on the green and checked up 15 feet from the pin. If I had been five yards shorter, it would’ve been in the hazard. I two-putted for the win. I’m glad I listened to Boston, who still caddies for me on the PGA Tour.”



PLAY

# Championship MOMENTS



**Paul Haley** | Dallas  
2006 Texas Amateur Champion  
Dallas Country Club

“My final putt was about 25 feet, a little downhill and two cups outside the left edge, breaking right. I had been so good on the greens the whole week and especially over the last nine holes, so I wasn’t thinking about anything besides making a good stroke. The second I looked up the ball was on line, and with a few feet to go I thought it was dead center. I actually never saw it go in because with about six inches to go, I looked away, ready to go crazy, because I knew I made it.”



PLAY

# *Championship* MOMENTS

## Charlie Holland | Dallas

2007 Texas Amateur Champion

Whispering Pines Golf Club

“I had a two-shot lead on the final hole, the 18th at Whispering Pines. From the fairway I hit a 7-iron that barely made it over the green’s false front or else it would’ve rolled back in the water. I didn’t hit it solidly and remember thinking, ‘Please get over.’ As soon as the ball came to a stop I knew I had the win. My dad was the TGA President at the time, and he gave me the trophy. That’s probably the best moment I’ve had in golf.”



PLAY

# *Championship* M O M E N T S



“ I didn’t know I was going to win in 2002 until that final putt dropped. It was about 15 feet, and it was the second playoff hole against Martin Flores. I remember being excited about beating the best amateurs from around the state. It wasn’t until later that I was able to appreciate having my name alongside some of the greats in Texas amateur history.”

**Ryan Baca** | Richmond  
2002/2003 Texas Amateur Champion  
Horseshoe Bay Resort/Dallas Athletic Club



PLAY

# *Championship* MOMENTS



## Chip Stewart | Dallas

1992/1998 Texas Amateur Champion  
Dallas Athletic Club/Crown Colony Country Club

“The 17th hole at Crown Colony was a 215-yard par 3 over water. It was my 71st hole, and as I stood on the tee I thought if I could just keep it dry, then I’d have a chance to win the tournament. The hole location was front-left, so I knew I had 195 yards to carry the water and 208 yards to the hole. I flushed a 4-iron to about 30 feet and two-putted for par. Then I exhaled and made par on the long par-5 18th, which got me into a playoff. I was fortunate enough to win on the third extra hole.”



PLAY

# *Championship* M O M E N T S

**Mark Brooks** | Fort Worth  
1979/1981 Texas Amateur Champion  
Wichita Falls Country Club/Houston Country Club

“To win my first Texas Amateur in '79, I hit one of the best recovery shots of my life at that point on the 71st hole. A high school buddy of mine, who had finished his round, caught me as I walked off the 16th green, which is right by the clubhouse at Wichita Falls Country Club. He told me if I played the last two holes in even-par, I'd be looking good. The 17th was a 445-yard par 4, kind of a beast in those days, with OB left. It was playing into the wind, and I tried to hit a low draw that didn't draw enough. I ended up in the trees on the right side of the fairway. I was a long way from the green, but I had a small window through the trees. I hit a punch-cut 3-iron through the gap that rolled up to the front of the green. I made par there and at the last. That got me into a playoff, and I won on the second hole.”



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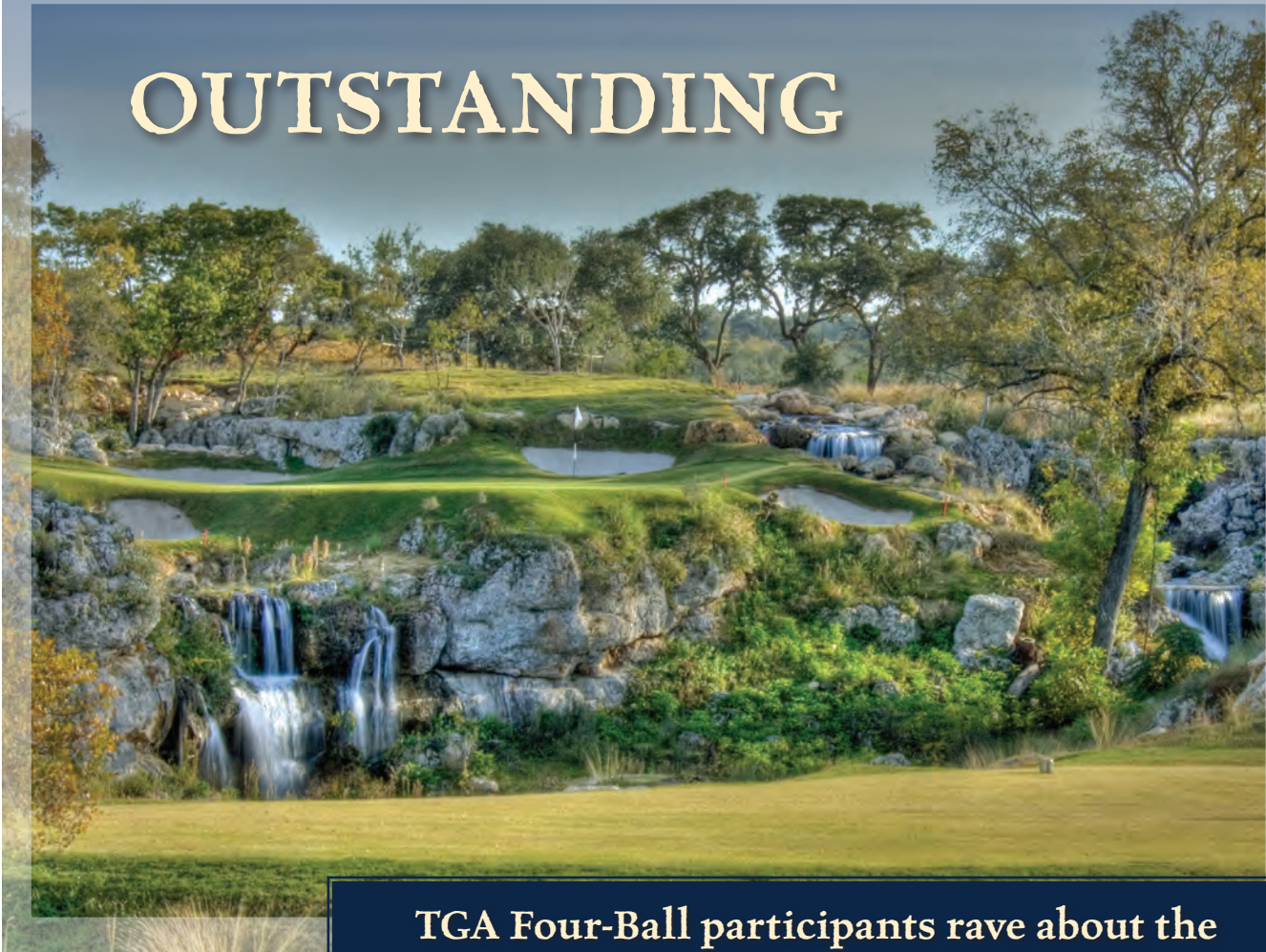
# Tillinghast & Texas

Albert Warren Tillinghast, one of the giants during the “Golden Age” of golf course architecture, was a sort of mad genius. The designer of Oak Hills Country Club, site of next month’s 107th Texas Amateur Championship presented by Insperity, Tillinghast didn’t start his design career until his mid-30s and was completely self-taught. He liked to brag that he never graduated from any of the many schools he attended because he either dropped out or was expelled. But he had a keen intellect and knew enough about the principles of landscape design, engineering and art to build courses that have never been equaled. Oak Hills is a good example of the type of design qualities Tillinghast tended to apply. Known as “Tillie the Terror” for the difficulty of many of his courses, Tillinghast loved to frame holes with trees. He believed

that well-executed approach shots were the best tests of a player’s game and would go to extremes to guard the putting surfaces, protecting them with deep bunkers, overhanging trees and water hazards. Oak Hills has plenty of examples of each. The majority of Tillinghast’s most well-known courses are concentrated within a 75-mile radius of New York City. But it may surprise some to know that Tillinghast also had a considerable impact on the game in Texas. During the 1910s and ’20s, Tillinghast designed some of the state’s most historic courses, including Oak Hills, Brackenridge Park and the La Oma Course at Fort Sam Houston. In Dallas, his mastery can be found at Brook Hollow Golf Club and Cedar Crest Golf Club, site of the 1927 PGA Championship won by Walter Hagen. ★



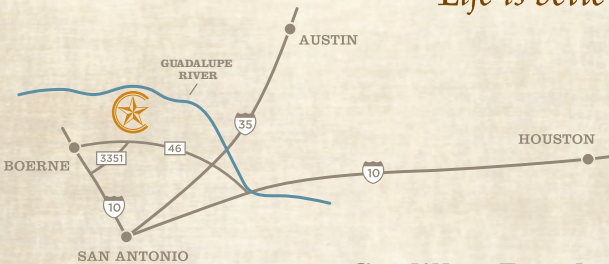
A.W. Tillinghast



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# Oak Hills CC & the TGA

## A Match Made in Championship Heaven

The most prestigious championships must be played on the best, most challenging courses. It's a tenet of the TGA philosophy. It's also why Oak Hills Country Club in San Antonio has been such a perfect fit for the biggest events the TGA has to offer.

While it's been 44 years since the last Texas Amateur was contested at Oak Hills, several other high-profile TGA championships have been decided on the tree-lined beauty with mercury-fast greens. This year's 107th edition, presented by Insperity, marks the Texas Amateur's fourth appearance at Oak Hills, dating back to 1950. The club also has played host to two

Texas Senior Amateurs and the Texas Mid-Amateur Match Play.

"The Texas Golf Association is extremely pleased to continue our long-standing relationship with Oak Hills Country Club," said Ryan Finn, TGA Managing Director of Championships. "We are grateful that we have been invited back to conduct the 107th Texas Amateur Championship at Oak Hills, which has been a proud supporter of the game."

Oak Hills was designed by A.W. Tillinghast and opened for play in 1922. One of the game's most revered golf course architects, Tillinghast liked to design holes from the green working back, and believed

that precision shot-making and course management were the ultimate tests of a player's game. With bold green and bunker contours throughout the course, combined with an equally stern examination off the tee, Oak Hills is a lasting reminder of the architect's incomparable skill.

The course is renowned amongst golfers as being an extremely fair test, yet one which is perfectly designed to punish anything less than a top-quality shot.

Some of the all-time Texas greats of the game have won TGA championships at Oak Hills. The list includes two Masters champions - Charles Coody and Ben Crenshaw - who won the Texas Amateur



Click box icon to enlarge ▲

in 1959 and 1972, respectively. In addition to their major championship victories, the two would go on to win a combined total of 27 titles on the PGA Tour and PGA Champions Tour.

Morris Williams Jr. walked away with the 1950 Texas Amateur at Oak Hills, the highlight of a torrid 12-month stretch in which he also won the Texas State Junior and Southwest Conference Championships. One of the best young golfers in the history of the state, Williams' life was tragically cut short in the fall of 1950 when his jet crashed during a Korean War training mission.

The 1998 Texas Senior Amateur at Oak Hills was won by Don Addington. It was a record-breaking sixth Senior Amateur title for Addington, who in 2011 would join Coody, Crenshaw, and Williams in the Texas Golf Hall of Fame.

Mike Booker is just the latest in a long list of great champions to have won at Oak Hills. At the 2013 Texas Mid-Amateur Match Play, the first time for the club to host the event, Booker defeated Ron Kilby, 1-up,

### TGA Championship History at Oak Hills

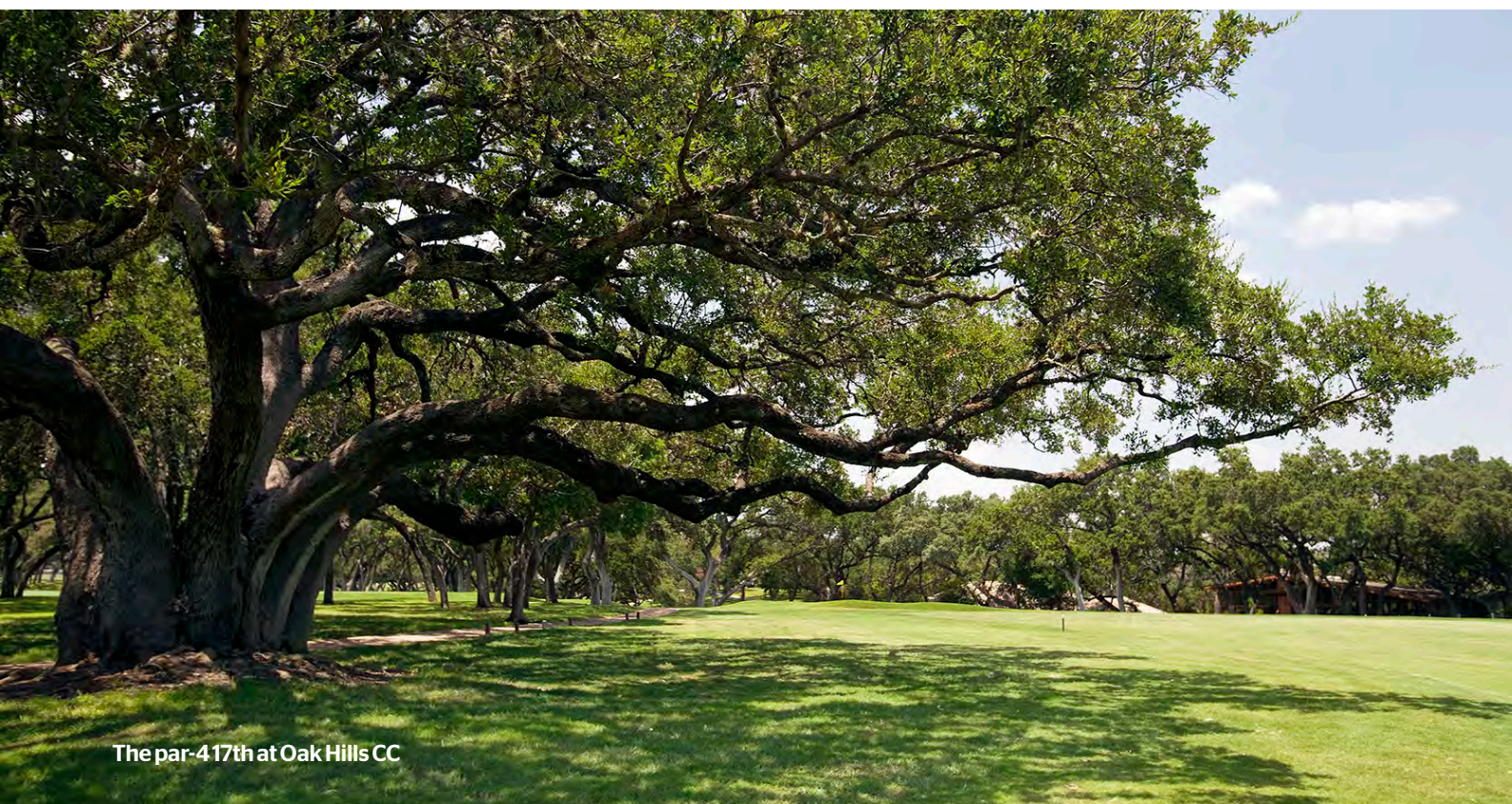
**Texas Amateur:**  
1950, 1959, 1972, 2016

**Texas Senior Amateur:**  
1998, 2015

**Texas Mid-Amateur Match Play:** 2013

in the finals. Just last year Booker made a triumphant return to Oaks Hills, carding rounds of 71-73-72 for a 3-over-par 216 total to capture the 2015 Texas Senior Amateur.

The 107th Texas Amateur Championship presented by Insperity will add to Oak Hills' storied tradition of hosting memorable TGA major championships and producing winners who are in complete control of every aspect of their game from tee to green. For more information, [click here](#). ★



The par-417th at Oak Hills CC



PLAY



Owen (left) and Leslie Clifton

# A Family Affair

## Father-Son Championship set for July 8-10 at Horseshoe Bay Resort

This year’s Texas Father-Son will be held July 8-10 on the Apple Rock Course at Horseshoe Bay Resort.

Host to a number of TGA Championships through the years, Apple Rock is the resort’s third course designed by legendary architect Robert Trent Jones, Sr. The course opened in 1986 and was named as the “Best New Resort Course” by *Golf Digest*. Widely known as one of the most scenic courses in the state, Apple Rock gently winds its way through the rolling Texas Hill Country along the shores of Lake LBJ and is a delight for players of all skill levels.

First held in 1984, the Texas Father-Son has grown to be one

of the most popular events on the TGA annual schedule. It’s considered a summer tradition for a great many families. To better accommodate a wide range of players, the 80-team starting field will be pre-assigned to one of five flights based on combined handicap indexes as of June 15.

The Championship Flight consists of 40 teams with the lowest combined handicap indexes and will play four-ball stroke play in rounds one and two. After 36 holes, the low 20 teams (and ties) continue on in the Championship Flight and will play combined score (individual stroke play using both players scores) in the final round. The three-day total is the

team’s score for the championship.

Teams not making the 36-hole cut in the Championship Flight will compete in the President’s Flight and play another round of four-ball stroke play. The format for all other flights is 54 holes net four-ball stroke play.

Tom and Will Doughtie of Amarillo won the Texas Father-Son Championship last year on the Tournament Course at The Woodlands Country Club. It was the fifth victory overall for the dynamite Doughtie duo that had a scorching run in the early 2000s, winning four consecutive titles from 2001-04. For more information, [click here](#). ★

# Eleven Teams Win Trips to Horseshoe Bay for Finals



After eight weeks of regular season play, 11 TGA Member Clubs advanced to the Texas League Play Finals, to be played June 2-5 at Horseshoe Bay Resort. A total of 44 Member Clubs participated, matching League Play’s highest participation and popularity numbers.

Five clubs went undefeated during the regular season, including three-time defending champions Tierra Verde of Arlington. The other clubs without a blemish on their record were two-time champions Dallas Athletic Club, Colonial CC, Odessa CC and Shady Oaks CC. Gentle Creek CC finished with a 5-0-1 record.

“I’m really looking forward to the Playoffs this year,” said Neil Gilman, TGA Tournament Coordinator and chief administrator of Texas League Play. “I know the players are really looking forward to it, and it should be an exciting four days of competition with so many great Member Clubs making the trip to Horseshoe Bay Resort.”

During the regular season, each team plays a home-and-away series against the three other teams in its conference for a total of six matches over the eight-week span. Each team match consists of four separate four-ball matches using a Nassau point system. Three points are available for each match – front nine, back nine and overall 18 holes – and the team which accumulates 6.5 points or more wins the team match.

The 11 conference winners are seeded into the Championship Playoffs based on the total

### Texas League Play Finals Seedings June 2-5 at Horseshoe Bay Resort

1. Colonial CC (6-0) 54 pts
2. Tierra Verde GC (6-0) 53 pts
3. DAC (6-0) 52.5 pts
4. Odessa CC (6-0) 52 pts
5. Lochinvar GC (5-1) 49.5 pts
6. De Cordova Bend CC (5-1) 49 pts
7. Gentle Creek CC (5-0-1) 48 pts
8. Spanish Oaks CC (5-1) 45.5 pts
9. Royal Oaks CC (5-1) 44 pts
10. Riverbend CC (3-1-2) 40 pts
11. Shady Oaks CC (3-0) 22.5 pts

number of points accumulated during the regular season. Colonial’s 54 points were the most, which earned the Colonial squad the No. 1 seed at Horseshoe Bay. Tierra Verde is the No. 2 seed with 53 points. The first- and second-round matches will be played June 2-3 on the Slick Rock Course. Teams seeded Nos. 6-11 will square off against each other on Day One; the top-seeded teams earned byes. All teams will be in action on the second day.

The semifinal matches on June 4 and championship final match on June 5 will be contested on the Apple Rock Course at Horseshoe Bay. Live scoring updates will be available throughout the playoffs. For more information, [click here](#). ★



PLAY

*Women's Texas Golf Association*

# UH's Thothong Primed for Stroke Play Championship

While the TGA continues to celebrate the greatest women in Texas golf history with the yearlong Breaking 100 campaign, today's top amateurs will gather June 24-26 at Pine Forest Country Club in Houston for the second annual Women's Stroke Play Championship.

The 54-hole stroke play tournament will go a long way toward determining the inaugural Women's Player of the Year award winner. The Player of the Year will be decided based on a season-long points race. The two majors on the Women's schedule - the WTGA State Amateur in July and the Women's Stroke Play Championship - are more heavily weighted in Player of the Year points distribution.

Among the headliners of the event is Dallas native Megan Thothong, a sophomore at the University of Houston who finished second at last year's Women's Stroke Play Championship. She shot rounds of 68-73-72 to post even-par 213 at Eagle's Bluff in Bullard. Thothong came up six shots short of winner Kaitlyn Papp from Austin.

"Kaitlyn played great," said Thothong, who won her second tournament for UH this spring at the UNF Collegiate in March. "Last year my short game was lacking a lot. This year I'm focused on that and hoping for better results."

Thothong said she hopes to finish one spot better this time around.

"I don't sign up for a tournament if I don't plan on winning," she said. "I'll put my best foot forward and see

what happens. I'll always try to play my best and hope that it's good enough to beat everyone else in the field."

The Women's Stroke Play Championship was created in 2015 to identify the best female amateur in Texas in stroke play format. The exclusive field is limited to 78 players. In addition to the extra Player of the Year points awarded, the Women's Stroke Play Championship also counts for points in the World Amateur Golf Rankings.

Thothong said she's circled the event's dates on her calendar.

"I think it's a great tournament," said Thothong, a three-time participant in the WTGA State Amateur. "They do a great job of picking great courses and mixing it up. I'm not competing every single week in the summers, so choosing events is really important to me. I always make sure to get the WTGA State Am and Women's Stroke Play Championship on my schedule. They're great events and they always go to good courses."

Pine Forest CC is a 27-hole facility located in west Houston. It features narrow fairways and smallish greens that challenge players' accuracy and trajectory. Old school in nature, Pine Forest is one of the best walking courses in Texas with greens and ensuing tee boxes in close proximity. For more information on the Women's Stroke Play Championship, [click here](#). ★

Megan Thothong was the runner-up at the 2015 Women's Stroke Play Championship at Eagle's Bluff GC in Bullard.



PLAY

# Byron Nelson Junior Features Strong Field

Venerable Lakewood Country Club in Dallas will once again provide an electric setting when 78 of the world's top juniors gather for the 17th playing of the Byron Nelson Junior Championship from June 28-30.

Opened in 1912, Lakewood is the second-oldest club in Dallas and was designed by Scotland native Thomas Bendelow. The 6,742-yard, par-71 layout is, and always has been, a true shotmaker's delight. With majestic,

tree-lined fairways and well-protected green complexes, Lakewood sets a challenging stage for the talented young men to showcase their skills. Conducted by the Legends Junior Tour, the Byron Nelson Junior is widely

considered one of the foremost boys-only invitational tournaments in the Southwest.

Among the many notable past champions are: 2015 Masters and U.S. Open champion Jordan Spieth, who won three consecutive titles from 2008-10; Ryan Baca, who won back-to-back championships in 2000-01 and then won the Texas Amateur back-to-back in 2002-03; and Charlie Holland who won the 2004 Byron Nelson Junior and then three years later captured the 2007 Texas Amateur title.

Last year's Byron Nelson Junior was ranked 21st in strength of field for all U.S. junior events and third for events played in Texas, according to *Golfweek*.

Among those expected to make a spirited run at the Nelson Junior trophy include

Pierceson Coody, the 2015 runner-up and winner of the LJT's Boys 15-18 Player of the Year award; Turner Hosch of Dallas and Crosby Guercio of Frisco, respective winners of the 2016 Spring and Collegiate Previews; 2015 Texas Cup Invitational champion Brendon Powers of Mansfield; and Jenson Rogenes of Frisco, winner of the 2015 Texas State Junior Championship Boys 14 & Under Division.

The format is 54-hole individual stroke play. After the completion of 36 holes, the field is cut to the low 30 and ties for the final round. Admission is free and spectators are encouraged to come out to Lakewood and watch golf's next generation take on one of the state's most legendary courses. For more information, [click here](#). ★



Pierceson Coody finished 2nd at the 2015 Byron Nelson Junior Championship.

## Register for Texas State Junior Championship

The 90th Texas State Junior Championship presented by Merrill Lynch is open for registration. This year the event moves to The Woodlands Country Club's Tournament Course and Panther Trail on July 25-29.

Players in the Girls 15-18 Division and Boys & Girls 14 & Under Divisions gain entry through the LJT's Texas State Junior Championship Priority Entry System. All three divisions will play Panther Trail. The Girls 15-18 division is scheduled for 54 holes July 25-27, while the Boys and Girls 14 & Under divisions play 36 holes July 25-26.

In the Boys 15-18 division, players who haven't earned exemptions must qualify through one of 12 statewide sites. There will be two last chance qualifiers, as well. They will be run by the NTPGA and STPGA on July 18 as part of their respective All-American Tour and Prestige Tour events. The Boys 15-18 division will take place July 27-29 at The Woodlands



Country Club's Tournament Course, home to several past TGA events and currently the Champions Tour's Insuperity Invitational.

Registration deadline for the 90th Texas State Junior Championship is June 13. To register now, [click here](#). ★




ENGAGE

# #TGAFunGolf4

One of the reasons we love golf is because it is so difficult. No matter our skill level, we all have good days and bad days, the latter of which often leads to frustration and sometimes even anger.

That’s why it’s so important to always remember this mantra: *Golf is a Game. Games are meant to be Fun!* As part of our popular Fun Golf program that emphasizes recreational play and having a good time, we wanted to ask our TGA followers, “What Makes Golf Fun for You?”

We held a contest on our social media channels that posed this and similar questions with a #TGAFunGolf4 hashtag. To make it even more fun, we put on the line a free foursome at an upcoming Fun Golf event for most creative answer. Our winner was Beau Blair (@Blair1220) via Twitter, in response to our post asking What Makes Golf Fun for You? We loved his answer and awarded this TGA Twitter follower the grand prize. Below are some samples of some of our other favorites and a couple of polls you voted in, too. Keep following us on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and Pinterest for more chances to win.



**Beau**  
@blair1220

Follow

@TexasGolfAssn Teaching my 11 & 9 year olds the greatest game of all time #TGAFunGolf4

**Congratulations to Our Contest Winners:**

**FREE TGA Fun Golf Foursome Grand Prize:**  
**Beau Blair, @blair1220**

**Runners Up:**  
**@DrBrown59**  
**Karl Hoffman**



**Kayla Hargues** Lester Hargues we love to golf

Unlike · Reply · Message · 1 · May 10 at 4:23pm



**Kevin Smith** Free Golf Donna Weaver Smith

Unlike · Reply · Message · 1 · May 10 at 3:11pm



**Karl Hoffman** John Daigle

Unlike · Reply · Message · 1 · May 10 at 7:34pm



**Karl Hoffman** Dave Matulis

Unlike · Reply · Message · 1 · May 10 at 7:44pm



**Joe Rhame Jr.** Meeting new people

Unlike · Reply · Message · 1 · May 11 at 11:56am



**TexasGolfAssn**  
@TexasGolfAssn

Which format of play makes golf the most FUN for you & your friends?

41% Match Play/Nassau

17% Stroke Play

18% Wolf

24% Skins

76 votes · Final results



**TexasGolfAssn**  
@TexasGolfAssn

Dare to share? Which of the following yields the most FUN for you while hitting the links?

16% Quick pace of play

20% Good course conditions

8% Good weather

56% Playing with good friends

76 votes · Final results



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\*Offer valid May 25 – September 8, 2016. Specials cannot be combined with other discounts and must be paid in full and booked with Reservations at least 48 hours prior to play. Specials do not include play at Lakewood Golf Club. Specials do not include tax or lodging. Not valid with previously booked packages. There is a \$10 surcharge for each round on the Judge at Capitol Hill. Ross Bridge specials are available Monday - Thursday from \$199. Some restrictions may apply. Offers subject to change.



LEARN

# Location, Location, Location!



Golf course setup is one of the most important duties performed by the TGA Championship staff. The process of choosing hole locations for every tournament round is an integral part of course setup. In order to achieve the desired shot-making and a balance of challenge and opportunity, there is a considerable amount of thought and care put into the selection of each hole location.

The main goal is to reward a good

approach shot. To achieve it, some of the factors contemplated are:

- How did the architect's design intend for the hole to be played?
- What length and type of shot is required?
- What impact could the day's weather have on the hole?

Prior to the start of any tournament, our team takes about four hours to create a plan just for selecting hole locations. This includes pacing off

and confirming each green's depth, necessary for reflecting accurate measurements on players' hole location sheets. Each morning of competition, it takes approximately four more hours to step off and choose all 18 hole locations for that day.

In doing so, there are several areas to avoid. We make concerted efforts to stay away from severe slopes, ridges and contours. A player should be able to stop a putt near the hole from any reasonable distance. We also evaluate the condition of the putting surface's turf and keep clear of damaged portions and old hole plugs that haven't healed.

Traffic patterns, too, help determine hole locations, particularly on days with multiple rounds contested over consecutive days. There's an art to creating a rhythmic pattern throughout the 18 holes. Not only should the selected spots have a balance of front, middle and back locations, they require equity in terms of left-side, right-side and center locations. It's also critical to make sure

hole locations are not closer than three or four paces from the nearest edge of the green.

In our biggest events, such as the Texas Amateur presented by Insuperity and other multi-round championships, these balances must be achieved over several days of competition.

All of this requires thought and planning to ensure no single day or round is substantially more difficult than another. Again, our aim is to set up the course in a manner that challenges players, yet rewards good shots. Choosing hole locations is just one facet in a myriad of preparations our Championship staff performs in order to accomplish every event's singular objective: to identify the best player in the field and crown him or her the champion.

The next time you tee it up, consider what factors might have affected the selected hole location you're looking to conquer. It might help you get there in fewer strokes. ★

## About the TGA

Founded in 1906 as the governing body of amateur golf in Texas, the TGA is an official representative



of the United States Golf Association and the only licensed distributor of USGA GHIN Handicaps. We serve all golfers across Texas with elite competitive championships and recreational playing opportunities for men, women, seniors and juniors. The TGA is represented by hundreds of public and private facility Member Clubs throughout the state. It is our honor and responsibility to promote, protect and grow the game of golf on all levels. To learn more, [click here](#). ★

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## Allied Associations



## Texas Golf Association

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Randy Guillot *Managing Director, Finance*  
Kelly Erb *Executive Assistant*

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Mackenzie Brown *Membership Services Admin*

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Ian Davis *Tournament Coord., South Region*  
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