Lining Up Trans Trophies
2007 Champions Repeat Success in Association Events

Trent Brown's found his stride at Trans-Miss championships. Make no mistake about that.

- The 32-year-old banker won a second straight Trans-Mississippi Golf Association event in July, downing Minnesotan Jim Lehman on the second extra hole to win the 104th Trans-Miss Championship at The Minikahda Club in Minneapolis.
- Brown teamed with Chris Kessler last fall to win the Trans-Miss Four-Ball at Desert Forest Golf Club in Carefree, Ariz.
- This time he was on his own. And he would have to work overtime to defeat Lehman, a local favorite and brother of British Open winner Tom Lehman, in the wind on a Donald Ross gem steeped in the association's historical past.
- "(Winning) means a lot. You look at the names on the trophy and there's some great names from Nicklaus to Ben Crenshaw to guys, who were fantastic amateur players," said Brown, who reached the third round of the 2006 championships.
- "It also means the work I've been putting into my game is starting to pay off now."

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Greetings

Dear Trans-Miss Members,

- Our Trans-Miss directors and championship players experienced a slice of “Minikahda magic” last month. We were hosted by the gracious and friendly membership at one of Minnesota’s oldest clubs and “Trans-ported” back in time to experience a truly memorable 104th Trans-Mississippi Championship.

- Driving up the club entrance, the first time visitor to The Minikahda Club immediately notices the stately clubhouse, painted in traditional white and accented by the entry columns. You then see that the golf shop is in a separate nearby building, an arrangement left over from a time when golf pros were not allowed in the clubhouse. If you are going to play the golf course, you must first speak with the Starter, who operates with the efficiency and control reminiscent of the great courses of Scotland. The locker room is expansive and functional with mesh, open air metal lockers. The many clubhouse dining locations give you both a view of Lake Calhoun and the beautiful downtown skyline of Minneapolis to the east or the Donald Ross golf course to the south and west. And everywhere you look you see historic photos and displays reminding the members of their heritage and sharing their legacy with visitors.

- There were even some old original photo prints hung in the halfway house near the tenth tee that depicted the entire field of Trans Miss contestants (and their wives) posed on the Minikahda grounds, dressed in coats, ties and hats – the fashion of early twentieth century.

- By the time you get to the first tee you sense that you are about to experience a special place. The first Trans-Miss played there was in 1904 and the 2007 championship was the sixth time our champion came from this historic venue. The 1916 U.S. Open at Minikahda won by Chick Evans was the event that inspired the Evans Scholarship Fund for caddies.

- The caddie tradition is strong at The Minikahda Club. Our 156 contestants were encouraged to forego the modern-day golf cart and use one of the club’s 80 caddies during the championship. What does it say about our modern game when our players employed the entire list of club caddies (and a few brought their own)?

- In an era of clubs made with graphite and titanium and golf rules that refer to the “co-efficient of restitution”, The Minikahda Club may seem an easy mark at only 6,900 yards (par 71). The perfectly groomed course stood up to the test. No player dominated this course and all of them bowed down in respect to the genius of Donald Ross.

- So, thank you to the members of The Minikahda Club for hosting our annual gathering. We share a common interest in the traditions of the game and a mission to assist young people, whether they are caddies seeking a college education or men and women pursing a career in turf management. We look forward to sharing another helping of “remembrance, renewal and tradition”.

Keep Swinging (on planet),

Jack Clevenger
Trans-Miss President
Bunker blast

After a challenging, blustery 18 holes at Minikahda, both players hit good wedge shots to open the playoff at the 311-yard, par-4 first.

Brown drained a 12-foot putt for birdie and Lehman sank a 7-foot to match it and move the playoff to No. 2.

The 49-year-old attorney from Plymouth, Minn., hit a good drive at the par-4 second hole and was just short of the green in two.

Brown drove in the left rough and missed the green with his second.

"Wow!" was his response when he found how far his approach shot had kicked right, nesting in one of Minikahda's deep greenside bunkers. With the pin tucked right, Brown had little green to work with.

"I thought after that second shot I was in pretty rough shape. I hit a really good bunker shot and thought it would check up a little bit closer than that," Brown said of his effort that rolled 10 feet past the hole.

Lehman's putter had again let him down as his approach putt rolled 8 feet by the cup. Brown drained the 10 footer for par leaving Lehman to his par putt to stay alive. But that effort stopped at the lip and Brown had his second Trans-Mississagi title in as many appearances.

A three-putt bogey on the two-tier green at the scenic par-5 13th hole put Brown two behind with just five holes to play. After both players parred the difficult 14th, Brown went to work with a wedge to 3 feet at 15. Lehman conceded the birdie and the former Oklahoma State University golfer trailed by a single hole.

"That kind of helped turn the match a little bit," Brown said. Both players found the wrong tier of the green at the 16th hole. Brown's par putt from about 6 feet lipped out and Lehman's three-putt bogey was good enough to halve the hole.

"...I thought I made the second putt when it started going in...and it just kind of hung out there," Brown said. "That would have squared the match. I figured I needed that."

But at the 17th, Lehman would again struggle with his balky long putter, three-putting from about 30 feet and opening the door for Brown. This time the No. 3 seed from Scottsdale, Ariz., took advantage and his par squared the match.

"For some reason today I had some longer putts than I had in any of the previous rounds," Lehman said. "The winds were gusty...swirling like crazy and it was hard to get the ball close to the hole. As a result I had longer putts and my speed wasn't very good and that was the difference for me..."

Brown, playing out of Whisper Rock Golf Club, fired a pair of even-par 72s to claim the second spot in stroke play, one shot behind medalist David Bartman of Los Angeles at 143.

Brown opened match play with a pair of one-sided victories before knocking off Jeff Gipner of Oceanside, Calif., 2&1 in the round of 16 and Bryon Shumate of Fort Smith, Ark., 2&1 in the quarterfinals.

Brown reached the championship match with a 2 up victory over West Des Moines, Iowa's Gene Elliott in the semifinals.

"I hit a lot of real quality golf shots and hung in there and kept him down," Brown said. "Gene Elliott is a great player and plays in a lot of good tournaments."

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Trent's caddie for the finals was his dad, Roger, a top national senior amateur and a Trans-Mississippi director.
Maletis Wins
Third Senior Title
Portland’s talented senior golfer Chris Maletis is starting a nice collection of Trans-Miss Championship trophies. He has one for his mantle from the 2004 event at La Jolla Country Club and added one for the office in 2005 at Prairie Dunes. Now, after a championship run at Minikahda, there will be one for the bedside table.

“For whatever reason, I’ve always done well in match play,” said Maletis, forced to miss last year’s event due to shoulder surgery. “And I feel very comfortable in a match play format. So far in the Trans-Miss I’ve never lost in match play.”

Maletis, 58, found himself in the unenviable position of being three down to Steve Summers of Dallas in the championship match. Summers, who rolled to a 6&5 semifinal victory earlier in the day, was striking the ball beautifully the first nine holes and a birdie at the par-5 ninth gave him a three-hole margin.

“I was three-under and I had played well all day,” said Summers, 62. “I cannot explain how you can be playing so well, and then...except for it’s golf and I’ve done it many times before.”

A bogey to Maletis’ par at the tough tenth hole cut the lead to two. On the par-3 11th, Summers never reached the green, leaving his second chip shot up in one of Minikahda’s pine trees.

“I just kind of lost it there,” Summers admitted. “Probably a little more conservative play early in that back nine would have been in order.”

Maletis got the match tied at the 12th with another par and a birdie at the par-5 13th, his first of the day, gave him the lead for good.

“He played great; he earned his three-up lead,” Maletis said. “I was burning the cup on the front side. I hit the flag on (No. 6) and that knocked it farther away than it would have been. The turning point was the bogey on 10...and I just played my game. On the back side I was all pars and one birdie.”

Maletis won his fifth hole in a row with a par at the difficult 416-yard, par-4 14th. He closed out the match 3&2 when Summers found a fairway bunker off the tee at 16 and made another bogey.

“I didn’t drive it as well, especially as the day wore on,” Summers said. “Maybe on the back for some reason I started getting a little too mechanical.”

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Maletis, an Anheuser Busch distributor for 25 years who now owns Langdon Farms Golf Club, garnered medalist honors with a one-over total of 145 after rounds of 72 and 73.

“I knew the key was to keep the ball in play and try to keep the ball below the holes if possible,” the Portland Country Club golfer said. “The rough continued to grow; they hadn’t cut it and it was more penal as the week went on. I concentrated hard on giving up distance to hit that fairway. This is a great course, but if you’re in the rough it’s hard to make par.”

The No. 2 seed took out Oklahoma City’s sixth-seeded William Jackson 2&1 in the semifinals after a 4&3 quarterfinal victory over Fred Clark of Kingwood, Texas. Bob Vidricken of Salina, Kan. pushed Maletis to 19 holes, in the round of 16.

Summers, in the investment management business and playing out of Dallas Country Club, eagled two of Minikahda’s three front-nine par fives in beating fellow Dallas golfer Gary Seaman in the semifinals. He defeated another Dallas golfer in the quarterfinals, downing fourth-seeded Corky Nelson 2&1.

Summers, who first played in the Trans-Miss in 1965 at Kansas City Country Club, was seeded 12th in the Senior bracket after rounds of 80-75 in stroke play.

Funk out in round of 16

Defending champion Robert Funk of Canyon Lake, Calif., fell behind early to Jim Lehman in the round of 16 and never could get out of the hole in falling 3&2.

“I hit one bad shot on the first hole, a good shot on the second which ended up being long and put me in a bad position,” he said. “Then I hit another bad shot on three, another on four. By the time I looked up I was four down.”

Funk said he liked playing in the wind and called Minikahda a “shot-maker’s course.” He used consistent play in winning his first two matches but admitted he was playing “a little up and down” coming into event.

“Not enough to really go low, but enough in match play to keep the pressure on the guys,” he said. The 2006 champion at Brook Hollow in Dallas (an A.W. Tillinghast design) said he liked the Minneapolis golf course.

“The poa annua greens are similar to what I play in California,” he said. “(It’s a) Donald Ross course, old-style golf course like I’ve played over seas. It suits me well, lots of humps and bumps, and hidden breaks on greens. I like fast greens.”

But against Lehman his putting dropped off. “(The) putter was working okay, (but) I didn’t read the greens as well,” he said. “You get up against somebody who’s playing good and you’re just going to have to hang with them and that’s not what I did.”

Former caddie reaches quarterfinals

Tenth-seeded Jason Rudquist made a triumphant return to his old stomping grounds in reaching the quarterfinals. The 33-old insurance agency owner now living in Peyton, Colo., spent his summers as a youth caddying at The Minikahda Club.

“I started caddying when I was 12 years old, worked here until I was about 21,” Rudquist recalled. “A friend of mine from Arizona told me about the tournament coming back here and I just had to be a part of it.”

Rudquist, who said he caddied for former Minnesota Vikings like Chris Carter and coach Jerry Burns, had not been back to Minikahda in 12 years and noticed some changes in the course.

“The greens are a little bit different than I remember them, they’re a little bigger, bigger putting surfaces,” he said. “The bunkering is completely different. They used to have sand that would go all the way up like a pitch-faced bunker; now everything is level at the bottom. The sand is really good, but you try to avoid it...”

Rudquist’s local knowledge helped him shoot 69-79 in stroke play to secure the No. 10 seed. He opened match play with a pair of lopsided wins before knocking off seventh-seeded and the two-time Trans-Miss champion Ronald Richard of Fort Smith, Ark., 3&2 in the round of 16. No. 15 Gene Elliott of West Des Moines, Iowa, finally ended Rudquist’s run 4&3 in the quarterfinals.

Older Lehman shows stuff

At 49, Jim Lehman is comfortable playing golf as the lesser-known Lehman brother. When your younger brother wins the British Open and five times on the PGA Tour you have to be. But the attorney who represents some of the game’s most established stars and rising young players has plenty of game as he displayed at the Trans-Miss Championships. Playing out of Windsong Farm Golf Club in Independence, Minn., Lehman shot 74-77 in stroke play to secure the 17th seed before going on his run in match play.

Lehman ousted a pair of 40-something seeds in the first two rounds before knocking off defending champion Robert Funk 3&2 in the round of 16. Lehman, who practices three to five times a week from June to August, says he tries to play four to six national events per year and all the major Minnesota championships.

Jim says he and Tom were “...buddies” growing up. They played football, basketball and golf in high school and lots of junior golf together.

“Tom and I don’t get to play a lot of golf together, but we do play a couple of pro-scratch tournaments,” he says. “...we play the Tommy Bahama Desert Marlin a Grey Hawk. We won it last year.”

Cont’d on page
Lehman serves as business manager for established golf stars like Tom Lehman, 2007 Masters champion Zach Johnson, Scott Simpson, Larry Mize and Julie Inkster. He also represents up-and-comers like Brett Wetterich and Vaughn Taylor.

**Wilkinson enjoys week**

- It was certainly a big week for Trans-Miss Vice President/Treasurer Hank Wilkinson. Not only was he hosting the Trans-Miss at his home golf club, but also he managed to slip into match play in the senior portion of the event. Wilkinson then knocked off defending champion and No. 1 seed Steven Hakes of San Diego in 20 holes.
- "It was a lot of fun," said Wilkinson of Edina, Minn. "It was one of those things where I was lucky enough to get the 32nd seed. I didn’t think I had much to lose and he did. It was a course that I know well."

Wilkinson, a money manager, turned in rounds of 79 and 80 and found himself in a playoff for the final match play spot. He knocked off Dick Mahoney of Kentfield, Calif., on the first hole to claim the last slot and set up his battle with Hakes, automatically top-seeded as the defending champion.

- Wilkinson’s playing week ended in the second round when he fell to Gary Seaman of Dallas, 5 & 2. But that didn’t seem to diminish Wilkinson’s spirits as his home course was showcased to top amateur players.
- "The course is probably in the best condition that we’ve had it in, in 10 or 15 years," the former Drake University and Air Force golfer said. "We did a restoration (in 2003) and it’s really maturing from that restoration right now. Our superintendent (Jeff Johnson) had worked really hard getting it in the condition it is in."

Steve Summers, might have been the senior champion but for a series of difficult shots on the final six holes of the championship match.
Howard J. "Jake" Carey Jr., Legendary Contributor to the Game of Golf, Dies at Age 89

- Long-time and prominent Trans-Mississippi Golf Association director Howard "Jake" Carey Jr. passed away in April as the result of a falling accident as he was in the process of moving from the Hutchinson, Kansas family home to a nearby care facility.
- Jake's family was responsible for founding the world-famous Prairie Dunes Country Club in Hutchinson, Kansas, a frequent site for the Trans-Mississippi Championship. In 1950 he was elected as a director of the Trans-Miss and served as the association president in 1962-63 and served as the tournament chairman five times from 1958 through 2005.
- In 1975 Jake was elected to the prestigious 15-member United States Golf Association Executive Committee and was re-elected annually until 1982 when he resigned. In 1991 he was inducted into the Kansas Golf Hall of Fame for his meritorious service to golf in Kansas.
- Jake was a charter member of Prairie Dunes and a member of Augusta National. He was also a good player, having won the 1954 Hutchinson city championship and five club championships at Prairie Dunes. According to golf pro at his club, Jake had just purchased some new golf clubs last spring and according to a family member he was still working out with weights.
- His son, Brooks Carey, serves as a director of the Trans-Miss and will carry on the legacy of the Carey family for golf in Kansas and with the Trans-Mississippi Golf Association.
- Donations to the Trans-Miss Turf Scholarship Fund in Jake Carey's memory are being accepted at the Trans-Mississippi Golf Association in Lawrence, Kansas.
**Championship Match Play Results**

**Round of 64**
- Robert Funk, Canyon Lake, Calif. (1) def. Atul Anand, Long Beach, Calif. (64), 6 and 5
- Dave Burton, Scottsdale, Ariz. (13) def. Paul Meyer, Minneapolis, Minn. (32), 1 up
- Scott Burton, Manhattan, Kans. (49) def. Stephen Summers, Dallas, Texas (16), 19 holes
- John Leman, Plymouth, Minn. (17) def. Marshall Noslain, Stillwater, Minn. (48), 3 and 2
- Michael Podolak, Oxnard, N.D. (5) def. Rick Sklenar, Las Alamos, Calif. (57), 2 and 1
- Hunter Rancisco Santa Fe, Calif. (25) def. Matt Cookson, Shorewood, Minn. (40), 4 and 3
- Jason Sullivan, Pasadena, Calif. (9) def. Richard Crosson, Dallas, Texas (66), 5 and 4
- Ben Reola, Cerroitos, Calif. (41) def. Bob Neal, Arlington, Texas (24), 1 up
- Patrick McHale, Midland, Texas (61) def. Patrick Duffy, Omaha, Neb. (4), 19 holes
- John Johnson, Woodbury, Minn. (29) def. Martin Pensa, Thousand Oaks, Calif. (36), 1 up
- Philip Ebner, Edina, Minn. (13) def. Hollis Sullivan, Wichita Falls, Texas (52), 3 and 1
- Kevin Hopkins, San Diego, Calif. (15) def. Mark Kopsky, Chesterfield, Mo. (20), 5 and 4
- Michael Podolak, Oxnard, N.D. (5) def. Rick Helling, Excelsior, Minn. (60), 6 and 5
- Mooy, Eden Prairie, Minn. (28) def. John Anderson, Minnetonka, Minn. (17), 5 and 3
- Stawillag, Papillion, Neb. (53) def. Dan Coongquing, Lakeland, Minn. (12), 2 and 1
- Jon Saret, St. Paul, Minn. (44) def. Shawn Barker, Bartlettville, Okla. (21), 3 and 1
- Ben Burton, San Antonio, Texas (31) def. Dan Lohrer, Edina, Minn. (34), 3 and 2
- Scott Elliott, West Des Moines, Iowa (15) def. Troy Whaley Andover, Okla. (50), 6 and 4
- Mike McCoy, West Des Moines, Iowa (118) def. Dave Steinburg, Edina, Minn. (47), 3 and 1
- Richard Fort Smith, Ark. (7) def. Nickl Vuorilak, Omaha, Neb. (58), 3 and 2
- Kevin Whaley, Edina, Minn. (39) def. Jason Regan, Selma, Ala. (6), 2 and 1
- Russ Rapoport, Peyton, Colo. (10) def. Mike Tate, Lonegrove, Texas (35), 7 and 6
- John Jones, Los Angeles, Calif. (23) def. Steve Creeksmore Ill, Fort Smith, Ark. (42), 5 and 4
- Ron Brown, Scottsdale, Ariz. (3) def. Scott Lucas, Corona del Mar, Calif. (62), 5 and 4
- Jim Sullivan, Minneapolis, Minn. (30) def. Bud Ardel, Scottsdale, Ariz. (35), 2 and 1
- Bausman, Palm Desert, Calif. (51) def. Timothy Berntek, Minneapolis, Minn. (14), 1 up
- George Gibson, Oceanide, Calif. (46) def. Steve White, Jackson, Wyo. (19), 2 and 1
- Scott Brueggermann, Lincoln, Neb. (6) def. Carl Hirsch, Eden Prairie, Minn. (59), 6 and 4
- Jon Shumate. Fort Smith, Ark. (27) def. Stephen Daly, Wheaton, Ill. (35), 9 up
- Kesler, Scottsdale, Ariz. (11) def. Larry Bratcher, Tempe, Ariz. (54), 2 and 1
- Richard Lavoie, La Grange, N.Y. (14) def. Larry Nezev, Odesa, Texas (22), 1 up

**Quarterfinal Round**
- Jinn Leeman, Plymouth, Minn. (17) def. Dan Sullivan, Pasadena, Calif. (9), 2 and 1
- Phillip Ebner, Edina, Minn. (13) def. Michael Podolak, Oxnard, N.D. (5), 3 and 2
- Gene Elliott, West Des Moines, Iowa (15) def. Jason Roodprin, Peyton, Colo. (10), 4 and 3
- Trent Brown, Scottsdale, Ariz. (3) def. Byron Shumate, Fort Smith, Ark. (27), 2 and 1

**Semi-Final Round**
- Jinn Leeman, Plymouth, Minn. (17) def. Philip Ebner, Edina, Minn. (13), 5 and 4
- Trent Brown, Scottsdale, Ariz. (3) def. Gene Elliott, West Des Moines, Iowa (15), 2 up

**Final Round**
- Trent Brown, Scottsdale, Ariz. (3) def. Jim Leeman, Plymouth, Minn. (17), 20 holes

**Senior Championship Match Play Results**

**Round of 32**
- Hank Wilkinson, St Louis Park, Minn. (32) def. Steven Hales, San Diego, Calif. (1), 20 holes
- Gary Seaman, Dallas, Texas (16) def. Pat Vincelli, Rosemount, Minn. (17), 2 up
- James Hays, Scottsdale, Ariz. (8) def. David Sibley, Birmingham, Ala. (25), 4 and 3
- David Anderson, Manhattan, Kan. (24) def. Doug Baker, Austin, Texas (9), 1 up
- Corby Nelson, Dallas, Texas (4) def. Rich Tolle, Laguna Hills, Calif. (29), 6 and 4
- Larry Temple, Anchorage, Calif. (13) def. Michael Mahoney, Scottsdale, Ariz. (20), 5 and 3
- Steve Summers, Dallas, Texas (12) def. Denny Galligher, Cincinnati, Ohio (21), 3 and 2
- Chris Maletis, Portland, Ore. (2) def. Joe Pavuli, Prospect, Ky. (31), 4 and 3
- Bob Vickers, Salina, Kan. (15) def. Tom Smith, Lakeline, Texas (16), 6 and 5
- Fred Clark, Kingwood, Texas (7) def. Gary Shumate, Shreveport, Minn. (26), 1 up
- Richard Blooston, Edina, Minn. (19) def. Steve Wilson, Solana Beach, Calif. (23), 6 and 4
- Stephen Yavorsky, Capistrano Beach, Calif. (3) def. Steve Bell, Denver, Colo. (30), 1 up
- Roger Brown, Scottsdale, Ariz. (14) def. Tom Studer, Joliet, Ill. (19), 4 and 3
- William Jackson, Oklahoma City, Okla. (6) def. Clint Nelson, Fargo N.D. (27), 4 and 3
- Bob Fouke, Broken Arrow, Okla. (22) def. Chip Bridges, Encinatas, Calif. (11), 4 and 2

**Round of 16**
- Gary Seaman, Dallas, Texas (16) def. Hank Wilkinson, St Louis Park, Minn. (32), 3 and 2
- James Hays, Scottsdale, Ariz. (8) def. David Anderson, Manhattan, Kan. (24), 4 and 3
- Corby Nelson, Dallas, Texas (4) def. Marty Temple, Anchorage, Calif. (13), 4 and 3
- Steve Summers, Dallas, Texas (12) def. John Dennis, Greenville, S.C. (28), 5 and 4
- Fred Clark, Kingwood, Texas (7) def. Richard Blooston, Edina, Minn. (10), 6 and 5
- Roger Brown, Scottsdale, Ariz. (14) def. Stephen Yavorsky, Capistrano Beach, Calif. (3), 19 holes
- William Jackson, Oklahoma City, Okla. (6) def. Bob Fouke, Broken Arrow, Okla. (22), 4 and 3

**Quarterfinal Round**
- Gary Seaman, Dallas, Texas (16) def. James Hays, Scottsdale, Ariz. (8), 2 and 1
- Steve Summers, Dallas, Texas (12) def. Corby Nelson, Dallas, Texas (4), 2 and 1
- Chris Maletis, Portland, Ore. (2) def. Fred Clark, Kingwood, Texas (7), 4 and 3
- William Jackson, Oklahoma City, Okla. (6) def. Roger Brown, Scottsdale, Ariz. (14), 3 and 4

**Semi-Final Round**
- Steve Summers, Dallas, Texas (12) def. Gary Seaman, Dallas, Texas (16), 6 and 5
- Chris Maletis, Portland, Ore. (2) def. William Jackson, Oklahoma City, Okla. (6), 2 and 1

**Final Round**
- Chris Maletis, Portland, Ore. (2) def. Steve Summers, Dallas, Texas (12), 3 and 2