

# 'Shotmakers' - New Golf Competition At Topgolf Is Set To Premiere Monday, April 9 On Golf Channel

Inspired by the Topgolf Experience, Nine Co-Ed Teams Battle in Innovative Golf Channel Shotmaking Competition

ORLANDO, Fla., March 12, 2018 /PRNewswire/ -- ***Shotmakers***, an innovative new golf competition where precision shotmaking meets intense strategy in a fast-paced format, was announced today. Premiering Monday, April 9 at 9 p.m. ET on Golf Channel, ***Shotmakers*** will feature the fun, social experience for which **Topgolf®** is known, blending entertainment, golf and technology throughout the competition. The announcement was made today by Phil Piazza, Golf Channel senior vice president of programming and Topgolf Media President [YuChiang Cheng](#).

Surrounded by the Topgolf experience in [Las Vegas](#), nine co-ed teams of two will pair up in head-to-head competitions that test precision, distance and control, all while facing intense pressure and strategic decision-making. The 18 competitors include a former PGA TOUR professional, mini-tour professional golfers, an Olympian, former collegiate athletes, a former World No. 1 World Long Drive competitor, a trick-shot artist, decorated military veterans, and champions from the [Topgolf Tour](#).

"*Shotmakers* is a great opportunity to introduce a progressive approach to golf competition, featuring dynamic personalities from across the sports landscape," said Piazza. "*Shotmakers* also will showcase what Topgolf has been doing for 17 years – evolving the narrative around golf and redefining golf participation."

The competition will utilize [Toptracer](#) by Topgolf, the leading technology used on PGA TOUR televised broadcasts that immediately shows players their ball's flight, speed, distance and curve on screen, as well as the games made popular at the 41 Topgolf venues around the world. Teams will compete for cash and prizes in each competition and will be eliminated until one team is left standing as the champion of *Shotmakers*.

"Topgolf is proud to partner with Golf Channel for *Shotmakers*. This show advances our mutual commitment to growing the game through original content that inspires and entertains our audiences," Cheng said. "Through *Shotmakers*, Topgolf blends our unique brand experience with sports, creating compelling content that can be enjoyed by everyone."

*Shotmakers* is co-hosted by 3-time college national player of the year Amanda Blumenherst and golf host Shane Bacon, along with Golf Channel reporter Chantel McCabe and social media correspondent Alexandra O'Laughlin. *Shotmakers* will feature seven rounds of competition airing two nights a week– Monday and Tuesday nights – at 9 p.m. ET beginning April 9 and concluding April 30. The series will also be distributed across Golf's international platforms, airing in more than 60 countries worldwide.

## **SHOTMAKERS TEAMS**

**IMPACT**, sponsored by CDW:

**SUSANA BENAVIDES** (27, Cochabamba, Bolivia) Professional golfer, only Bolivian-born golfer to compete on the LPGA Tour, former top-ranked amateur in South America.

**TOMMY BIERSHENK** (44, Greenville, S.C.) Former PGA TOUR professional, two-time All-American at Clemson University, golf course owner.

**SHARKS**, sponsored by Corona Premier:

**TANIA TARE** (29, Auckland, New Zealand) Professional golfer, trick-shot artist, record-holder for lowest single round while competing for Florida International University with a 63.

**MAURICE ALLEN** (36, Pine Hills, Fla.) Former World No. 1 World Long Drive competitor, 3-time World Long Drive winner, All-American at Florida A&M in track.

**STRIKERS, sponsored by Travelocity:**

**VICTORIA LOVELADY** (31, Sao Paulo, Brazil) Professional golfer currently competing on the Symetra and Ladies European Tour, Olympian who represented Brazil in 2016 Rio Olympics.

**ROBBIE BIERSHENK** (41, Greenville, S.C.) Driving range owner, former mini-tour player, featured on Golf Channel's *Chasing the Dream* series.

**LIGHTNING, sponsored by MGM Grand:**

**KENZIE O'CONNELL** (26, Denver, Colo.) Golf teaching instructor, *Women With Drive* ambassador.

**CHAD PFEIFER** (36, Caldwell, Idaho) Professional golfer, decorated U.S. Army Corporal (retired) who credits golf saving his life, two-time Warrior Open champion, amputee (lower leg).

**SEEKERS, sponsored by Waste Management:**

**CHRISTINA LECUYER** (35, Conway, Ark.) Professional corporate/charity golf host and media personality, two-time All-American from the University of Central Arkansas, former professional golfer.

**MATT COUSENS** (26, London, England) PGA teaching professional, 2017 Topgolf Tour Championship runner-up with fellow *Shotmakers* competitor Brad Barnes.

**WARRIORS, sponsored by Avis:**

**NIKKI BONDURA** (25, Sacramento, Calif.) Golf lifestyle blogger, co-owner of *Women With Drive*.

**BRAD BARNES** (23, London, England) 2017 Topgolf Tour Championship runner-up with fellow *Shotmakers* competitor Matt Cousens.

**ACES, sponsored by Topgolf:**

**TISHA ABREA** (24, Murrieta, Calif.) Professional golfer competing on the mini-tours in 2018, co-owner of *Women With Drive*.

**JAMIE PUTERBAUGH** (33, Carlsbad, Calif.) PGA of America professional and teaching instructor, 2016-17 Topgolf Tour Championship finalist with fellow *Shotmakers* competitor Peter Campbell.

**RINGERS, sponsored by Massage Envy:**

**HAILEY OSTROM** (24, Phoenix, Ariz.) Professional golfer currently competing on mini tours.

**ANDREW BACHELDER** (36, Fort Worth, Texas) 2015 Warrior Open champion, decorated U.S. Marine Corps Sergeant (retired) who credits golf with saving his life.

**HAWKS, sponsored by Topgolf:**

**CHELSEA PEZZOLA** (25, Scottsdale, Ariz.) Professional golfer, standout junior golfer at IMG Academy, two-time Academic All-Big Ten at University of Michigan.

**PETER CAMPBELL** (33, Carlsbad, Calif.) Former PGA TOUR professional, golf instructor, 2016-17 Topgolf Tour Championship finalist with fellow *Shotmakers* competitor Jamie Puterbaugh.

**About Topgolf**

Topgolf pioneered a technology to make golf more fun and engaging. It has since emerged as a global sports and entertainment community focused on connecting people in meaningful ways. Today, Topgolf continues to blend technology and entertainment, golfers and non-golfers, children and adults – to create an experience that makes socializing a sport for everyone. No matter the occasion or who you share it with, we believe every great time starts with play, is fueled by food and beverage, moved by music and made possible through community. Every Topgolf venue features dozens of high-tech, climate-controlled hitting bays for year-round comfort, a chef-inspired menu for year-round deliciousness and hundreds of Associates eager to help create the moments that matter. Topgolf is truly everyone's game, with 41 venues entertaining more than 13 million Guests annually, original content shows, next-gen simulator lounges through Topgolf Swing Suite, the global Topgolf Tour competition, pop-up experiences like Topgolf Crush, Toptracer technology as seen on TV, and the world's largest digital golf audience. For more information about Topgolf, including corporate sponsorships, hospitality opportunities or to learn about and view exclusive digital content, please visit [topgolf.com](http://topgolf.com).

**About Golf Channel**

Golf Channel is a multimedia, golf entertainment and services company based in Orlando, Fla. Serving the most-affluent audience in all of television, Golf Channel – co-founded by Arnold Palmer in 1995 and now part of NBC Sports Group – is available to nearly 500 million viewers in 78 countries and nine languages around the world. Golf Channel features more live golf coverage than all other networks combined, including tournament action from the PGA TOUR, LPGA Tour, The Open, Olympics, and Ryder Cup, as well as high-quality news, instruction and original programming. Delivering unmatched coverage of the world of golf, fans are able to enjoy 24/7 live streaming of Golf Channel content through [Golf Channel Digital](#) and the [NBC Sports App](#), powered by Playmaker Media. In addition, Golf Channel connects the world to golf through a wide array of digital and

lifestyle services including [Golf Channel Mobile](#), a comprehensive app covering golf's latest headlines, scores and analysis; [GolfNow](#), the world's largest online tee time booking platform and golf course technology partner, which includes the [GolfNow Mobile App](#), featuring on-course GPS tracking, in-round scoring and game tracking; [Revolution Golf](#), the largest direct-to-consumer digital platform in golf ; [GolfAdvisor.com](#), the world's largest golf course ratings and review resource for golfers, by golfers; a North American network of [Golf Channel Academy](#) instructional facilities; and [Golf Channel Am Tour](#), the world's largest amateur golf tour; and as the Official Media Partner of [St. Andrews Links](#), the Home of Golf.

**-NBC Sports Group-**

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