

## Q & A with Brandel Chamblee

Written by Interview by Melissa Larsen

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For 18 years, **Brandel Chamblee** made his career out on the course as a pro golfer. Now, the Golf Channel commentator is sharing his experiences, tips and love of local courses as Scottsdale Convention & Visitors Bureau's newly named official golf ambassador. (Check out Chamblee's golf "rules" at [www.ilovescottsdalegolf.com](http://www.ilovescottsdalegolf.com).) Here, the golf great shares how he got into the game and names a few of his gold-star greens.



**AFM:** Was golf always your passion?

**BC:** No. Football, baseball, track and horses came first, in that order. Perhaps girls somewhere in there as well.

**AFM:** So, what piqued your interest in the sport?

**BC:** When I was 13 and I realized that horses fall on you and football players were as big as horses.

**AFM:** Was it an easy transition to move from player to commentator?

**BC:** No, not at all. Golf is the most selfish endeavor I can think of. TV is the team game to end all team games. Took me a while to find my voice.

**AFM:** Tell me about your new role with Scottsdale Convention & Visitors Bureau?

**BC:** [I'm] helping promote the greatest golf destination in the world. The nightlife isn't bad either.

**AFM:** What is your overall impression of the Valley golf scene?

**BC:** Undervalued. There is no better place in the world to do business and have lifelong memories created.

**AFM:** Why have you chosen to make Scottsdale your home?

**BC:** Because it's gorgeous in the off season.

**AFM:** Do you have a favorite local course? What about worldwide?

**BC:** My only local favorite is the course I happen to be playing that day. Oak Hill in San Antonio is my favorite worldwide.

**AFM:** What is your advice for a youngster who wants to get into the game?

**BC:** Study the fundamentals hard—never abandon them. Avoid fads.

**AFM:** What do you like to do in your off time? Where can we see you around the Valley?

**BC:** I like to hike, bike and read. You can find me in the mountains, on the bike trails, at Starbucks, Barnes & Noble and Zinc Bistro.



PHOTO COURTESY OF LEON TUCKER

### FAVORITE

**Spot in Scottsdale for purchasing golf gear:**

Grayhawk Golf Club

**Local 19th hole:**

Grayhawk Golf Club

**Golf-inspired movie:**

"Follow the Sun," the life story of Ben Hogan. I cry every time I watch.

**All-time player:**

Jack Nicklaus

**Hole you've ever played:**

18th at Riviera [Country Club] in Los Angeles