

THE SKINNY - Week Zero and One (North Nine)

OBSERVATIONS FROM THE WARMTH OF THE 19th Hole: (Greg Waldie)

Welcome back FB golfing enthusiasts! I failed to produce a Skinny after the league appreciation night, so I have decided to combine the material into one publication.

It was great to see some shiny new faces in the clubhouse Thursday night. The main reason for the league is to provide an opportunity to get to know each other on a more personal basis and Katie Bye and Chad Ghantous blended in famously. We also had the return of a few players from the past, some of which cannot be described as shiny and new...let's put it this way, they have been out in the north nine wind a few times.

Doug "2M's&N's" Kammann was reminiscing about a previous cold night in the league, when he didn't come as prepared as he should have. He told the story about how he had to turn to Waldo's crawl-in closet, to borrow some clothing, in order to survive that night. He and Bondo had a few laughs over this subject. Okay, so I do tend to be a "boy scout" in regard to having a number of clothing options available in the back of my vehicle...but hey, this is Michigan. You never know what the weather might bring. Come to think of it, I let "The Prez" borrow a cap in week zero...and I haven't gotten that back!

Don Simon "Says" was lamenting how his three-person team had to resort to having a sub the first night. Lucky for all of us, it was Mary Schmidt who subbed. She agreed to bring back her popular column, "Schmidt Happens" whenever she subs. If she gets some questions submitted to her (dear Abby style via email), she will respond...oh yes, she will respond.

Please feel free to pass along golf stories and photos to me each week!

QUOTE(S) OF THE WEEK:

In week zero, Tom "The Prez" Burnie was beside himself. He had himself convinced that someone shortened his clubs during the offseason. Sandie "TaylorMade" did not hesitate to pile on while Tom was down by saying, "Yeah, Tom was hitting grounders regularly and had a ton of RNIs".

Carl "Treasury" Bond responded to Tom's announcement about league appreciation night, by asking if he could forego the hotdog and the cart and play for free. Tom's response, "Carl, remember we're talking about Royal Scot you know".

Troy "Boy" Burnie got a yardage reading (202 yds) from his partner Jerry, while standing in the right rough on #2 of week zero. He then took a mighty rip with a 5-iron and hit in on the green, about pin high. Jerry, a little flabbergasted by the shot exclaimed, "Wow, how far do you hit your 5-iron?" "Apparently...202 yards!" Troy responded.

OBSERVATIONS FROM VARIOUS ROVING REPORTERS:

A cub reporter told the story about how Andy "Pinto" Bean hit his tee shot on #4 into the woods to the right. He took a quick look, but didn't find his ball. He then hit his tee shot off #5 tee into those same woods. This time, he found the ball he had just hit, the one that he hit playing #4, and as an added bonus...two other Farm Bureau Insurance Titleists.

Speaking of #5, Jerry (Lebowski) Laban decided an 8-iron was the right club for the tee shot and proceeded to hit his ball straight at the pin. He was shocked when it came up short of the green. His first reaction was to look at his club as if there was something wrong with it...and sure enough there was. He had pulled his gap wedge, not his 8-iron.

Word has it that Katie "Good" Bye absolutely tubed her first three drives (further evidenced by her winning drive on #9). Then, inexplicably, golf happened...she pulled out a fairway wood on #3 and literally hit a foot behind the ball and missed it entirely. Unfazed, she settled herself and pounded the next one down the fairway.

There was a claim that Jeff "Kreapa" Kroupa hit his tee shot, into that stiff breeze, to the 120 yard mark on #6. Although his tee shot claim was unsubstantiated in the clubhouse, the double-bogey he made was recorded.

Katie Bye and her partner Chad Ghantous were quite amazed with the "Rainman" ability of Jerry Laban. As some of you may know, Jerry is able to keep track of the scores for the entire foursome each and every hole. Katie and Chad got to a point where they didn't bother to count.

SCHMIDT HAPPENS:

To all of my adoring fans:

I bet you all were breathing a little easier thinking that you would be Schmidt Happens-less for the 2014 golf season. Well think again, suckers! I have my sources down at the Skinny newsroom, and I've paid them handsomely to allow me the pleasure of a guest appearance in your favorite publication. I had the distinct honor of subbing in a round with some of my old cronies during the first night of league play, and also golfing for the first time with a new pal, Mr. Don Simon. Besides the cool breeze that kept me in my hood and winter gloves all afternoon, the only other downer was that everyone teed off so early I didn't have time to grab my usual six-pack prior to the round. Waiting until we turned the corner to pop a top almost had this girl in a frenzy! The good news? I caught up on my lack of refreshment during the last few holes. The better news? My mediocre golf game was not impacted at all. If nothing else, I am consistent whether I am lubed or not.

Please enjoy the editorial genius that is sure to follow...though my official column may be on temporary hiatus, there is no lack of advice in this head and, as always, I am compelled to share with the masses.

Dear SH,

What is your advice for a golfer who plays very well when going down wind, but struggles mightily when going into the wind?

Thanks

WindChilled

Dear Windy,

Well this certainly is a timely question, there is no doubt it was a tough round last Thursday. I like to think of myself as someone who "goes where the wind blows me," and I strive to avoid bucking that trend whenever possible. However, it is not always possible to avoid Mother Nature's wrath while on a wide open fairway. When this happens to you, don't let it cause the wind to fall out of your sails. This is normal in this game we love to hate. When you can't change the direction of the wind, just adjust your sails my friend! My best advice for this conundrum is to take the Schmidt Happens approach to the game: if you transform into "three sheets to the wind" by hole nine, you will have forgotten from which direction the wind is blowing. Likely by then you've also lost a ball in some muck, left your pitching wedge at the previous hole, and you have to pee so bad you're accidentally running on the green in an effort to speed up the game (oopsie!). Despite these side-effects, you should find the whole "three sheets" thing to be a breeze (but I cannot speak for your round-mates). Best of luck!

Schmidt Happens



THIS WEEK IN GOLF:

HOLE PRIZES:

Todd Gibbs had the closest to the pin on #7

Katie Bye had the longest drive on #9

NASTY GOLFER AWARD:

It is Sue Reed in a landslide! As you can see, she's pretty happy about it.



SKINS BREAKDOWN:

Hole 1: A couple of wind-aided birdies here by TroyBoy and Steavens..... NO SKIN OUT!

Hole 2: Several pars here.....NO SKIN OUT!

Hole 3: Numerous pars..... NO SKIN OUT!

Hole 4: Several pars on this short and tight hole..... NO SKIN OUT!

Hole 5: Two deuces on this hole by Bond and Waldie, but a net "1" wins a Skin for **Matt Moran**

Hole 6: **Todd "SoyBoy" Gibbs** gets a par skin and **Matt Moran** gets another net skin with a "2"

Hole 7: Only three pars on this long short hole, but that is plenty.....NO SKIN OUT!

Hole 8: **Terry "Koz" Kosloski** wins a par Skin here and **Rob "Always" Earley** wins a net Skin

Hole 9: **Carl "Gold" Bond** grinds out a par Skin and **Matt "MoneyBags" Moran** wins his 3rd net Skin

Poker Hand: **Jerry "RainMan" Laban** had a full-house of 6s over 5s and won a share of the pot.

Final Tally: 26 players in the game for a total pot of \$52/8 = \$6.50 each share and \$19.50 for Matt!

Thanks for participating in the Skins game!