

SHANKS and FLOPS – 2026.05

Gino Torches the Back Nine to Claim His First Latty Title

The Latty Boys battled cold, windy conditions *yet again*, but the weather wasn't the story — John Gino's scorching 34 on the back nine was. The long-hitting Club Rookie caught absolute fire, ripping off eight fours and a deuce coming in to post an 80 and two round total 15, to capture the Spring Championship Gross Title. For Gino, this feels like the first chapter of a long book of future wins.

Runner-up Eric Nelson nearly stole the show himself, firing the day's best round of 76, which was good enough to net 72 (148 Total) and edge out Richie Piazza by one for the Net Title. It was a crown that fan-favorite Lenny DeMartino had within reach... until the familiar demons returned. A six on the par-3 12th and back-to-back triples on 17 and 18 cooked the Dough Boy. Post-round, he was reportedly telling cruise stories instead of score stories.

DALLAS NET MATCH PLAY — THE SLASHER STRIKES AGAIN

In the other marquee event, veteran Mark "The Slasher" Grunlund took down rookie Joe Berardi II, winning 3 & 1.

Berardi II came in confident, maybe *too* confident, after openly seeking a side match with North Shore CC's head pro Anthony Aruta last week. Berardi II jumped out fast again, but a double on the 5th rattled him. Another double on 8 handed Grunlund the lead, and the Wisconsin-born match-play specialist never gave it back.

The wind favored the veteran, and the moment favored his experience. Berardi II declined comment afterward, but make no mistake, he's going to be a force all season.

THE DAY STARTS WITH 20... AND THEN DAVEY BOY'S ELBOW EXPLODES

The morning began with 20 players and balanced four-man teams. That lasted about three holes. Dave Eller, hacking out of the rough, felt his elbow bark and his hand go numb. The on-site official immediately ruled him "no contest," forcing the field into Individual Quota for the *fourth straight week*.

INDIVIDUAL QUOTA — DOM SCIANDRA BREAKS THROUGH

Another rookie, Dom Sciandra, took the overall with a +1, despite firing a 99 that included a nine on the 10th. With 22 strokes in his pocket, he made them count.

T-2: Vin DiCrescento & Eric Nelson (Even)

Front Nine

- **Winner:** Tommy Lally (+3)
- **T-2:** Sciandra & Uncle Lenny (+1)

Back Nine

- **Winner:** Gino (+2)
- **T-2:** Sciandra, DiCrescento, Nelson (Even)

PINS, PAR 3/5, AND OTHER FIREWORKS

- Lawrence “Mailbox” Arena and Eric Delin were throwing darts out there, grabbing two pins each.
- Vinny “The Chin” DiCrescento took the weekly Par 3 & 5 Contest with 13 points.

FUN FACTS FROM THE FAIRWAYS

- Joey Pallotta Jr. is back, the swing is returning, and the fire is unmistakable.
- With Joey comes Joe Pallotta Sr., who continues taking credit for every good shot his son hits. Expect to see him often as he loves being out there.
- Dom Sciandra, desperate for someone to ask where he played Division I football, finally found his moment thanks to Papa Pallotta.
 - Dom was a baseball star first.
 - Basketball was his true love.
 - Football didn’t enter the picture until high school, where he played tackle.
 - He attended West Virginia University, where they converted him into a center.
 - Which means, yes Our very own, Geno Smith had his hands on Dom’s ass every day until injury ended his run.
 - He even declined a CFL opportunity.
 - Now he rides a scooter up and down LaTourette, and honestly, the club is better for having him.
 - The day he gets paired with “Pondie” will be must-see TV.

LOOKING AHEAD

Next week is Mother’s Day! The field will be light, but not as light as years past. Joe Ciulla may even play or pull out. Sciandra has nothing on The Dealer, Afterall he did play with Joe Torre.

If you’re playing, get your name in. And as of this writing... May the 4th be with you.