

THE 16TH DICK'S HATBAND

DAY BY DAY RECAP

DAY ONE

Pundits lauded TST and his pure geometric decision making skills after he selected the white tee boxes for round one of the DHB. "Last year the kids screwed us. Totally screwed us." lamented the Hatband Tournament Director in reference to the kids of last year totally screwing everybody. Today's scores reflected the difference. While only three players finished in red numbers, the field-wide performance was up considerably. Eleven players are within ten shots of the lead. Tommy Wagner, looking for his first DHB title, was medalist carding a fine six under 66 which included an eagle on the difficult par 5 fourteenth hole. W was not his traditional Den self turning in a five under 67 and 2015 DHB champ Matt Geary filed a solid four under 68, completing W's Corner in an unhead of four under par. Eric Nieukirk used back to back birdies on number 10 and 11 to make it back to even par for the day.

TT, TST and Majors rookie (Rookie of the Year?) Stan Collins are all five back at +1. Dil and defending champ Peeps, forever conjoined at the yellow shirts, shot +3 while BT3 and JUD lamented the heavy air of the midwestern summer enroute to four over 76's. Sponsor's Exemption, Clint Hutchcraft and 2011 champ Jeff Doeden (tender back) are eager to start round two at a course not named "The Den".

DAY TWO

Royal ArseHead boasts no junior tournaments, no unforgiving holes. Yet a bawdy wind and some riotous play made today's scores look eerily similar to those from The Whites at Fox Den. Plus Golf GameBook crashed and burned which preoccupied the tournament director to such an extent that he barely noticed all the nines he was making. Two time DHB champion W was solid today as was new found talent STL. Both will play in the final group at round three's Pine Lakes. MGY and opening round leader TW5 are also suspected of earning entry into the final foursome. Scholars are awaiting calculations and reorganization of data. Odds are increasing that today's results will all come tomorrow as that is when the Major's calculation man is expected to wake up. HBB got some unexpected sad news and showed quick and solid judgement in his WD. DIL fell back. To the back of the pack. No accurate data exists for PVT. He quoted an opening four holes of triple bogey, double bogey, triple bogey and double bogey. Not too good for a defending champion. However, one witness recounted that PVT's opening four holes consisted of only one bogey and at least two pars. Money List #1 & #2 BT3 & TST as always are tied going into Pine and as always vow to go B to the W - you can bank on that.

DAY THREE

There is good and then there is scary good. Today W was scary good. Because of his third round 10 under 61? Partly. Because of his four stroke lead going into the final round? Somewhat. In reality it is mostly because we still remember the span of five Majors in the late 00's that went by when nobody won but W. It was ages. The W-Slam

and all that. Yes, we didn't like it and like a bad dream, we don't want it to ever come back. It hurt that much. Alas, we may have no choice. It feels like the sun aint gonna shine anymore.

Of the thirteen that began the DHB on Thursday, ten are out of it. Doed, Dil, defending champ PVT? Out of it. World #1 TST, 17 time Major Champion BT3? So out of it. Big Bomber JUD and rock steady ERN? No chance. Super nova STL? #Out. First-to-last grouper and two time DHB champion TT? Out... Of... It...

That leaves MGY and TW5 as the only hope for humanity. Only they stand in the way of what may spawn A New Epoch D'Supremacy.

Weaver will still be majestic even if rain tries to dampen our already soggy spirits. Like Spartans, TW5 and MGY will be ready for a battle to the finish. Perhaps even all the way to a tie breaker. Which would be great because we have a new tie breaker system we want to try out.

DAY FOUR

A rivalry in the making? Cardinals-Cubs. Cowboys-Redskins. Ali-Frazier. Cats-Dogs. And now W-TW5? For at least the second time in very recent memory these two have battled to the end on the final day of the Dick's Hatband at traditional finishing venue that is Majestic Weaverridge. After nine holes Sunday ,and with hanger-onner MGY erasing his slim chances with a double bogey on nine, TW5 had eliminated W's four shot lead. Temporarily at least. An unfortunate twelfth hole for TW5 - and many, many other things - led to W standing on the sixteenth tee box with a giant six shot lead. Then walking off the sixteenth green with a femtometer-thick two shot cushion. Two! Oh no! One second W can't lose. The next he can't win. On to the tricky par three seventeenth where a nervous tee shot will find the water or even worse. TW5 needed to summon up the killer instinct and find the green off the tee. But no. Left and in the sand led to matching bogeys. So it came down to the par five ultimate hole with W still up by two strokes. Make par and you are almost certainly the winner. Make bogey and a playoff (which everybody wanted, believe me) is very possible. Double or worse and... Forget all that! W pured a 100 yard approach to 10 feet and made birdie to win by three. It's VHS over Betamax again.