

31st Erlenmeyer Flask (EMF) – Preview

Here we go. Good old fashioned Syndicate v. Bureau! (*The Serb wonders what the little people will think of The Serb's bold use of v. v. vs. (fka v. vs. vs.) here. Very European it all feels to the Serb.*) Fresh off of a four shot victory at EMF30, what do the everchanging Warriors (Bureau) do but bring in KD (DF) to attempt to start some dynasticism or something.



Easy to think that this, as The Bureau is wont to describe it, Superteam can't miss! STL, DOED, and MSG are back. Out is JRY in is DF from what was pure domination. A trade up? The Serb was a chemistry major at Harvard with a PHD in glue-guy from Yale. The Serb feels qualified to scrunch The Serb's nose as if something so beautiful actually stank a little.

Adding to all this bureausness is the simple fact that The Syndicate is coming off of a dismal 50% showing at the magical UFC 2024 Farmington that forced an impromptu EMF shift at ratty Twin Warriors. (*The Serb pauses for a quick aside: What a glorious thing the EMF Sprint is. A true champion is crowned each and everytime after foraging mightily through harrowing trials and tribulations to emerge victorious as only a true gladiator might.*) The Serb must dig deep to the see the real competition coming. The Serb knows that The Bureau don't see it. The Serb knows that The Syndicate see it oh so clearly.

With no record since the "What was that?!?" 20 under record score in 2020 by the Great Mutatoes, the flask is \$680 bones deep which means there are four figures are on the line again. Net 21 under is required to take it all.

Chilli conditions for an 8:00am start with a predicable wet track at the Crack don't really favor either team really. The Serb can see however where resulting longer iron play might bolster the sweet swinging Bureau. The threat of CPO is predictably on the overthinking and nervous minds of The Bureau. The Syndicate simply maintain their traditional empty minds devoid of all thought

Here's The Serb's quick take...

- The Syndicate (7) – BT3, W, LUF, TST – Reborn. Back from injury, back from salt-mine distractions. The Serb is not sure what to expect this time. Handicaps are up so strokes are up. The game is always there to go low, as The Serb has enjoyed so much in the past. But two losses in a row. Been since 2022. Make a birdie on 1, please. Take care of the par 5's. Get Back to the farging Basics and The Syndicate can soar.
- The Bureau (4) – DF, STL, DOED, MSG – JRY out. ATR in. ATR out. DF in. A long road, but here they are. Long off the tee. Precise with the approach. Impeccable shorties. Putting. So so solid. The Serb is sold. But why then is The Serb not sold? How can the addition of Scratchy to this solid core not mean a SPST victory going away? Maybe it will. The Serb is skeptical. A blade of grass out of place. A poorly raked bunker. A wryly whistling wren. Derailers abound.

The Serb's Analysis:

The Flask is safer than a sieve. The Bureau might be EMF team #1 of all time, but 4 is not enough to get to 21 under. The Syndicate can get there, but with these wet conditions, 3's on 5's and 2's on 4's will need to be herculean. The Bureau will go out fast and finish fast. The Syndicate will get back on track early but struggle to hang on.

The Serb's Predictions:

- 1) Scores will be low.
- 2) The Bureau is gross. The Syndicate is net.
- 3) On the last hole, the Syndicate will need birdie to hang on.
- 4) The Flask goes Axl Biggie Smalls on the EMF. Big money next time!!

31st EMF Winner: The FLASK. (TS -18 TB -18)