

CHIP SHOTS

LEFTOVERS

GENEVA'S SUCCESS – Many thank you's for the fun and excellent times in the Geneva Open. This year was more of a challenge than recent outings. The mess up at the Geneva course causing a change of venues for early Saturday golf, the thunderous rain eventually washing out the round, last minute scratches screwing the best laid plans for Best Ball, Gavin Cup, and Scramble teams, etc., etc. The moxie and temperament of the 46 golfers who did attend gets a huge tip of the cap for overlooking these setbacks and having fun. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you, a million times. A few individuals need to be mentioned for their behind-the-scenes contributions. Legend Fritz Ford designed the caps and umbrellas and arranged them delivered on time. I refuse to blame Fritz for the wet weather to test the quality of the umbrellas. Blaise Plageman annually takes helpings of responsibilities off my plate. That guy can gobble leftovers like a bulldog and is willing to accept any scraps needed attended. I am forever grateful. The work he puts into Geneva's preparations and his behind-the-scenes efforts during the weekend, more times than not, goes unrecognized. For Blaise to go unrecognized is an illusion David Copperfield could not perform. Prompt and accurate results are credited to Ben Lloyd who brought Geneva to the computer age. Shawn Dorn is instrumental in organizing the Scramble and arranging Thursday's practice round. Those fellows perform these duties yearly. Others step up when needed like Mark and Sam Kovachy who went propane hunting when a tank was not available for the Commissioner's dinner. Good thing. What was I going to do with 50 steaks, 20 pounds of potato salad, and enough tossed salad to feed Bugs Bunny for a year? So many more could be mentioned but I will save you the boredom of reading their efforts. I am grateful, nonetheless. I do want to take this opportunity to give a special "thank you" to Mini-Legend Jack Berger. Every year he says, "If there is anything I can do to help, I'm there for you." Somehow, from that point forward, he knows how to avoid me until his bags are packed and he is ready to drive home.

PARENTING RIGHT – A follow up to my dissertation concerning Craig Marshall's wife, unhappy about displaying the Gavin Cup Trophy because it

disrupts the décor of the house. I present Chapter 2. If you missed or forgot the commentary, scroll down to “The Gavin Cup Wrap Up” and refresh your memory. Scroll down further and a new photo of Craig with his sons Crosby and Beck displaying proud emotions from their Father’s achievement. They look to be doing a happy dance around the Gavin Cup. That is a dad providing good leadership in teaching his children the value and reward of hard work. Odds are Crosby and Beck will grow to be mature and responsible leaders in this country and find success in whatever course of life they pursue. The other half of the Gavin Cup team, Pat Dorn, is rehabbing from knee surgery. His son, Shawn, keeps us updated on Pat’s recovery and shows the respect his Father deserves by pushing him through therapy just as Pat would do him. Shawn exhibits much delight in this reversed role.

ALUMNI DAY – The deluge that dropped on the Geneva region came pouring down off Lake Erie’s shores like a monsoon. The masses gathered inside the Hemlock clubhouse, a perfect setting for surprise visitors. The sudden appearance of Mike Weilbacher, Donice Foreaker, Jack Pontsler, and Judd Ballard invigorated many as if Santa Claus and his elves crashed the family Christmas party. Squid and Pine blessed the Geneva field for many years and are part of Geneva’s rich history setting standards on and off the course, traditions still practiced today. Squid stopped participating since the Covid pandemic. Donice found a wife and more household responsibilities several years earlier and for the good of all, health wise included, dropped the Geneva trip from his yearly adventures. They hung around for more than four hours, tipping a few, catching up on life and rehashing the past. That, my friends, is part of the Geneva experience. Although Jack and Judd never stroked a shot in Geneva, they learned what Geneva is all about and why Geneva talk lasts twelve months a year. It was fantastic to see these guys. I salute!

FIRE OUT – Imagine returning after 4 days in Geneva-on-the-Lake and finding your furniture on the front lawn. The initial shock would send you into a wonderland. The awry of couch, table, and lampstands decorating the yard in a replica of Sanford and Sons Junk Yard directs the brain to burglary or eviction. A closer look gives evidence of a fire. Sure enough, the pure white, freshly painted walls were now a Confederate gray. The smell of smoke clings to every hair in your nostrils. Puddles of water dot the floor. The front door hatched by a fireman’s ax.

This is what Jay Green endeavored. So stunned and not thinking straight, Jay slept in his car for two nights with only his Geneva clothes in his possession. Coming to his senses, he moved from his SUV to the Hyatt where he still resides as workers try to make his home habitable again. Jay is still unsure of the cause but originally blamed faulty wirelines in a home built around 1950. The last time I spoke to Jay, he was upbeat believing he would win millions of dollars from a magazine sweepstakes.

WRAPPING IT UP – Closing the lid on the 2023 Geneva Open, we can call it successful if we come away with fond memories. Memories that will bring smiles to faces each time we rehash the weekend. Winning money is inconsequential. It is not the \$15 I won from Nick Boggess from our \$5 Nassau bet that I remember. It is the bragging rights that I took those 30 strokes he spotted me, and I beat him. That is what is imbedded in my memory. As the years pass, we will hear more stories. 46 golfers all have tales to tell. As mentioned earlier, it is those 46 and their involvement that makes the weekend special. We will do it again next year. The dates for 2024 are July 26, July 27, and July 28. Look forward to it. I am. Bring on Nick Boggess. If he is not scared of me, I will be more than happy to give him a rematch. In the philosophical words of Bill Parcells, “If you are afraid of confrontation, you are not going to do well.”