

2024 GAVIN CUP WRAP UP

BACK TO ROOTS

Somewhere in the heavens, though many believe she is in hell, Sister Gavin glows brightly like the flames of the devil's headquarters. That fire scorched the chances of 23 teams but lit the ass of one of her favorite students from old Wehrle High School. Mini-Legend Jerry Graves, whose personality is respected by all and said to be able to make friends with anybody, Beelzebub included, proved this quality true when he friended Sister Gavin. His efforts were rewarded when he took home the prestigious Gavin Cup. Even in victory, Sister Gavin made him pay a hefty price.

She may be a devilish spirit, but her hands were all over Our Little Buddy's tumble into the burning pit of fire. Celebrating his opening round of 83 at Hemlock Springs, the witching hour long passed when Jerry decided to turn in. Climbing to his feet, he nearly stumbled headfirst into the flames. We breathed a sigh of relief when he caught his balance. He turned away from the fire. Before he took a step, I was sure I saw the long fingers of an old woman with nails as long as Edward Scissorhands push him. Mr. Graves plummeted into the center of the flaming ring as if plopping into his Lazy Boy. Don Rutherford was quick to the rescue. He pushed Jerry out of the flames in a matter of seconds. It's a good thing. As much alcohol in his system Jerry may have exploded like a 4th of July cherry bomb. The hot iron pit scorched the back of his legs just above the knees. I am no doctor, but they looked to be 1st degree burns. This accident cannot be blamed on Don Jander. He was nowhere close to the mishap. I swear this was the doings of Sister Gavin.

Jerry Graves did not win the Gavin Cup on his own. He partnered with Michael Badea. 85, 82, 82 read Michael's scorecard. Mr. Badea earned runner-up status for the most productive weekend behind Nick Boggess who you will read much about in the next two articles. Michael was on both the BEST BALL CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM and the GAVIN CUP winning squad as well as collecting skin money in the SCRAMBLE. There is much to be said about Michael's golf game but, with my apologies, it is Mini-Legend Jerry Graves getting most of the ink in this piece.

The Badea-Graves team led from start to finish. Playing in the first group at Hemlock, Jerry birdied No. 1. They never relinquished that lead. Acting like a leprechaun, Our Short Buddy hopped around the course chasing the pot of gold shouting, "Catch me if you can." We should all be thankful he did not don his Irish leotards. He carded no more birdies that Friday but managed seven pars. Their lead was four shots after day one. Jerry's worse round of the weekend came on Saturday, merely 8 hours since his fire act. He played the Geneva course in 93 strokes. It was moving day, but their lead was still 4 strokes heading into the final round. They won the competition by 5 smacks over Dagon Abdon and Legend Fritz Ford who started the Sunday trailing by 8 strokes. Not to be on this weekend, not after the barbecued adrenalin administered by Sister Gavin's devilish potion drove Jerry to victory.

The defending champions, Pat Dorn and Craig Marshall, finished 5th in the competition. They passed eight teams on day 3. They came into the tournament with Craig bragging to the world of last year's win. The back window of his truck read in billboard fashion, "2x DEFENDING GAVIN CUP CHAMPION – CRAIG MAC". It is important to note that Pat Dorn was part of that team. He was more discreet in his approach, not wanting to draw extra attention and bias to his team. Craig thumped his chest for the both.

The winning team shot a net 409 score, which adds up to 21 under par. They will defend their title in 2025. The Handicap Committee promised to reevaluate the 22 strokes Our Little Buddy caught this year. A damning task for sure with Sister Gavin on his side. There has been talk about changing the name of the trophy. Woe betide if you do. That nun will haunt you the rest of your life. I swear when I flew over Rochester, Minnesota, she flew alongside on her broom still scolding me like she did in high school. Before making a name change on the trophy just understand we live life moving forward, but only do we understand it when we take a look back at all we've been through.