

2024 SCRAMBLE WRAP UP

SCRAMBLE THEATRE

Every year Geneva produces an off-Broadway performance more real than any reality TV. The actors are mostly the same but the drama changes with each new production. The intrigue and suspense captures attention like a good Agatha Christie novel. After 27 holes of golf, the Scramble creates a clubhouse relief from the stress and grind of stiff competition.

It starts when the first foursome finishes their round. Atop the hill with a bird's eye view of the 9th hole they park. Four by four they are joined after each group putts out. The scores are revealed when each team takes their parking spot. Kudos to the Scramble Committee because the results were closer than a Dizzy Dean brush back pitch. With ten squads finished, there were 4 teams at five under par, 5 teams at -4, and one at minus 3. Waiting for the last foursome to complete their round, the gathering prepared for playoffs. I guess it is appropriate at this time to quote the words of a 1963 Beatle song. "The fools on the hill see the sun going down and the eyes in their heads see the world spinning round."

One more group to finish. As traditional as the celebratory first foursome to open Geneva every Friday, expect Nick Boggess to captain the last Scramble team each year. Nick loves this stage. Most often count on him to give a Tony Award performance. His supporting cast for the 2024 production was Steve Miller, Kyle Willis, and Tony McGuckin. Of course, championships cannot be earned unless the supporting cast deliver their lines and play as compatible partners, lifting Nick back in contention when he stumbles. Think of Dean Martin, Walter Brennan, and Rick Nelson performing with John Wayne in Rio Bravo. Their contributions were vital in making the movie an instant classic.

I wish I could report a sensational shot on the final hole giving this play a Hollywood ending but that is not the case. Nick has done it before. Don Rutherford has video on his phone of Mr. Boggess sinking a 35-foot birdie to win the Scramble. Not this year, however. Nick Boggess, Steve Miller, Kyle Willis, and Tony McGuckin came to the closing hole needing a

par to win. Nothing spectacular in the way they finished, just a routine par. The spectacular play came on holes 5 through 8 when they carded four consecutive birdies. They won the Scramble by one stroke and split \$240 for their effort.

Four Skins were earned during the Scramble but zero by the Nick Boggess crew. Blaise Plageman, Mark Maatz, Jacob Davis, and Bob Rutherford won two Skins with eagles on both par 5's. Don Jander, Dick Plageman, Shawn Dorn, and Craig Marshall captured a Skin by birdieing the fourth hole. The other Skin went to the team of Michael Badea, Keith Boggess, Todd Moore, and Ray Ballard scoring a rare birdie on No.9. It was a striking contrast from last year when only one Skin was claimed, and it took an eagle 2 on No. 7. Each Scramble Skin was worth \$60.

The deal with the Scramble is each year brings a new collection of teams. Nick Boggess-Steve Miller-Kyle Willis-Tony McGuckin will be scrambled with other teammates presenting opportunities to play with different golfers. The one certain thing about the Scramble is Nick Boggess will compete in the last group in another attempt to display an award-winning performance.