

2024 SKINS AND SKILL SHOTS WRAP UP

THE ANGRY GRIZZLY

Nick Boggess woke up on July 27 with an empty feeling. For the first time in many years, he did not win a Skin on Friday's round. If he was unaware of his lackluster accomplishment, I am guilty of rejuvenating his competitive juices. "Don't poke a sleeping bear" Lee Trevino warned about Jack Nicklaus in the 70's I did not heed his warning. Before Saturday's golf, I informed Nick of his underachieving play. The blood boiled. His eyes grew hungry. The Geneva course became a huge picnic basket for him to feast. And feast he did.

Let's start from the beginning. On a beautiful sunlit day at Hemlock Springs, temperature hovering in the mid-70's, the winds as menacing as my late wife, the course could have been the Garden of Eden. The low hanging fruit was ripe for the picking. Nine Skins were earned each paying \$52. Think about it. One out of every two holes relinquished a Skin. With 47 guys in the field, the likeliness of nine Skins on this golf course is as far fetched as catching Tyrek Hill. The dudes cashing in on Skins were Legend Vince Gatto, Blaise Plageman, Legend Fritz Ford, Don Jander, Alex Ballard, Dick Plageman, Dagon Abdon, Tim Black with an eagle, and Steve Miller. Who would have thunk it? Just goes to show you golf is a crazy sport. Lee Trevino knew it which is why he said, "Golf is a game invented by the same people who think music comes out of a bagpipe."

That brings us to Saturday when Nick had his big day. Trevino also said, "There are two things you can do with your head down – play golf and pray." Nick played winning golf leaving the rest of us to pray that he leaves a few scraps. He won three Skins totaling \$140, two Skill Shots pocketing \$100 more, and captained the winning Scramble team for \$60. Cha-Ching! That adds up to \$300. Most all of the low hanging fruit remaining after Friday's Skin barrage was gobbled by Nick satisfying his hungry grizzly bear appetite. Back in his parts (lower Ohio and upper Kentucky), he is known as Scottie, nicknamed after today's top golfer. I apologize. Next year I will keep my observations to myself. Pat Dorn and Rick Jonas also earned

\$45 apiece with their Skin in “A” flight. They were lucky Nick left them anything to win.

The good thing for the high handicappers is Nick Boggess is not in the “B” flight. That made room for five more winners of Skin money claiming \$48 for each. Tony McGuckin, Mike Pagnanelli, Mini-Legend Jerry Graves, Jay Green, and Jacob Davis cashed in for their fine play. Adding it up, 19 Skins were won in two days, and all were birdies except Tom Black’s eagle. More Lee Trevino insight when he said, “Chipping and putting for par is like a dog chasing cars, he won’t be doing it for very long.”

I mentioned the Skill Shot Competition. It is time to give them due diligence. Each winner is \$50 richer. Richie Heskett, Alex Ballard, Jay Green, and (must I repeat) Nick Boggess were Closest to the Pin on the par 3’s. Wreaking more havoc on the field, Nick’s second shot was Closest on No.10. Legend Frank Alexander made the Longest First Putt on the 9th hole. Finally, Don Rutherford outmuscled the big hitters by spanking the Longest Drive on 11.

Those are your 2024 Skins and Skill Shot winners. It would be fitting to close this article with one more Trevinoism. “Nobody but you and your caddie care what you do out there, and if your caddie is betting against you, he doesn’t care either.”