

2025 SCRAMBLE WRAP UP

TEAM DAGAN CLEANS UP

Four by four the teams gathered on the hilltop behind the 9th green to heckle each player as they finished their round and to check scores as they signed their scorecards. A thrilling nightmare was fermenting. Four foursomes had finished with 31 total strokes. Two groups were still on the golf course. A Playoff loomed. The Scramble is notorious for Playoffs. I do not believe there were ever more than three teams playing extra holes to determine a winner. We were staring at a dusk finish. For many, the alcohol was taking hold. Have you heard of Pickle Ball? We were about to engage in Pickled Golf, having just spent 10 hours in heat and humidity, electrolyzed from beer and 80 proof. Sounds like fun.

The bubble burst when Dagan Abdon's team, the next to last group on the course, announced they finished minus 6, one shot better than the field. There was both relief and disappointment generated atop the hill. After all, dinner and other mind-altering substances were still ahead on most everyone's nightly agenda. Dagan partnered with Richie Heskett, Kyle Willis, and John Skunza to claim first prize. As Lee Corso says so elegantly, "Not so fast my friends." One more group needed to finish. That team consisted of Nick Boggess, Mark Kovachy, Tom Black, and Don Rutherford. They were 5 under par coming to the 9th tee. Just the way Nick likes it. In his neck of the State, they call Nick the poor man's Scotty Scheffler. His game and his physique can intimidate a bear, be it grizzly, black, or golden. True to form, the match rested on a 20-foot birdie putt. Each try slid to the side in dramatic fashion and their attempt to force a playoff fell one shot short. Instead, they dropped into the same pool of teams drowning in the "If only we..." excuse for losers.

John Skunza was part of the winning team. How did he come to join the group? Thank Jay Green. Most know by now Jay was absent from Geneva festivities this year. Jay was scheduled to appear but was confused on the days. According to Bill Boggess, who Jay kept informed,

he drove to Geneva on Wednesday, July 23, a day early. He scoured the grounds around the Summertime Inn and Geneva golf course and could not find anyone he knew. The next move drove him to the State Lodge, but there was no room at the Inn. Frustrated and disappointed, Mr. Green returned to Columbus and decided to skip Geneva. Factor the fact he missed the Geneva exit from the freeway and was in Ashtabula before he got right, may have scared him from returning. His scratch left Dagan, Richie, and Kyle with a threesome for the Scramble Tournament. John Skunza accepted my invitation to fill Jay's spot. That, my friends, is the answer to how he came to join the group. John Skunza has been a Geneva fraternity brother since the late 70's. He is not some sap I pulled from the Strip for the part.

If there was a strange foursome playing together in this Scramble event, it was the team of Legend Gary Glanzman, Doug Zuene, Todd Moore, and Kerry Joyce. Two guys span one end of the spectrum, and two fellows bounce around the opposite end. Gary had not touched an alcoholic beverage in 17 years. Kerry drinks one, and only one, Michelob Ultra after his round. Then there were Doug and Todd who were having the time of their lives. Their end of the spectrum was on another planet. Golfing skills took a back seat to just staying on their feet. Doug handled that bodily function poorly. He fell three times during the round. His final tumble occurred on the 9th green's fringe, in front of a gallery of heckling fans. Nobody helped him to his feet. He fell on his own, he must rise on his own. The look from Gary and Kerry as they joined the spectators on the hill told a story of exasperation. The Scramble Committee does a great job in comprising competitive teams, but they missed the boat on personalities when it came to this team. Hey! I am aware as all when it comes to the Geneva Factor. After his Scramble experience, poor Kerry witnessed Don Jander, Steve Miller, and me overindulge Saturday night until well into Sunday morning. I broke no tables this time. That's Geneva.

The Scramble also holds a Skins game during the competition. Two teams won Skins. The winners are familiar names. Besides capturing the Scramble Championship, Dagan, Richie, Kyle, and John pocketed skin money. They shared the pot with Nick, Mark Kovachy, Tom Black, and Don

Rutherford who also earned a skin. The take was \$120 a team. Though the goal of all is to win, we learned over the years that winning is not the only thing or everything as Vince Lombardi preached. In Geneva, other factors make this a super event. Cheers!