

2025 BEST BALL WRAP UP

HAT'S OFF

There were no championship hats to take off. The Commissioner forgot to distribute them to the team of Mike Pagnanelli, Pat Dorn, Dagan Abdon, and Kyle Willis. The winning cash they collected added up to \$660. They deserved it. This team finished 15 under par. I am no Einstein, but I figured that calculates to \$10 per shot. Team Pags was loaded. Maybe not the same loaded as Legend Fritz Ford after Sunday's round, or Doug Zuene and Todd Moore during the Scramble, or Steve Miller, Don Jander, and Legend Frank Alexander sometime on Sunday morning. Theirs were a different kind of loaded. The bullets firing from Pag's Best Ball team were loaded with birdies and eagles, enough to earn a Champions cap and \$165 apiece.

Check these scores; Dagan Abdon – 67, Pat Dorn – 73, Mike Pagnanelli – 76, Kyle Willis – 98. Do not conclude Kyle was just a witness. His par on No. 3, catching a stroke, was the help the team needed to win. Pags, Creature, and Dagan birdied No. 1. They could only count one, but the tone was set for the rest of the day. Chalk an eagle to Dagan's round on No. 6, a par 4. The team started the backside with natural birdies on 10, 11, 12, and 13. The net scores for the foursome reads like a professional golf tournament on an easier track. Pags netted 66, Dagan scored a net 63, Creature finished net 65, and Kyle posted an 89. Pretty impressive. They needed every contribution because they only won by one shot.

Dick Plageman, Andrew Brinkmeyer, Ron Szymczak, Bob Rutherford, and Vince Gatto finished minus 14. Andrew scorched Geneva with a sizzling 68. His eagle on 18 could not bolt them into the lead. Big Dick was on fire himself. He shot his best Geneva round (71). By now, that scorecard is framed and displayed for all to idolize. The Achilles heal for the team was their par on the 13th. Very accessible from the tee for several of the long ball hitters, that hole was one of the easiest of the weekend. Still, a very impressive effort for The Big Dick team. In most cases, finishing 2nd or

beyond are long forgotten by the time we play our next golf game but Andrew's 68 and Dick's 71 may remind us of the results for years because I do not think Dickie will let us forget.

Another golfer who will not forget Sunday's round is Ray Ballard. His overall play may not be memorable, but his shot on No. 9 will be long remembered. For only the second time in 48 Geneva's, a hole-in-one was scored, and Ray struck the ball. What a sight! For a golfer, pulling his ball from the hole after an ace is as thrilling as watching the birth of your child. I reached out to Mr. Ballard and here is his excitement in his own words. "...I grabbed my trusty Stealth Driver and took a mighty swing at my ProV1, well, the ball was flying straight for a change. I hadn't been playing so well until then and headed right at the green. As it flew, it started to drop towards the right side in front of the green, which as you know, the pin was in the front but on the left side. Then, when it landed, it took the weirdest hop to the left, which I think my big brother may have had something to do with from the great beyond. It bounced a couple of times and then rolled right into the cup!!...I got to see the entire flight and roll in, all the while my son was yelling, It's going in Dad. It's going in the fucking cup!!' Then I remember getting picked up and hugged, and hands slapped and congratulated by my teammates, Alex, Todd Moore, and Geneva rookie Bill Juenger. It's a day I'll never forget and I'm very happy it happened at Geneva." Unfortunately, there are no Skins game or Skill Shots during Sunday's golf. Per Geneva policy, a hole-in-one wins all the Skins money for that day. In this case, the total would have been \$450. That does not include the \$50 for Closest to the Pin. His only reward for his accomplishment is lifetime recognition and a pat on the back. Way to go Ray! Maybe...just maybe, he will get a used range finder out of the ordeal. One of our participants left one on a cart and Ray found it. He sent an email asking to whom to return the instrument. If it is yours, contact Ray Ballard. The name Ray Ballard secures a spot in Geneva lore along side of Tim Black as the only Geneva Open linksters with a hole-in-one. Congratulations!

The gauntlet has been thrown down. Knocking team Pags off their BEST BALL throne will not be easy. Both Dagan and Pags cleaned up this

year. At least one of the two pocketed cash in every game be it BEST BALL, Gavin Cup, Skins, Scramble, and Skill Shots. Add Pat Dorn and Kyle Willis to the team and they appear as tough to beat as the Four Horsemen were in their day. The chore of picking Team Pags opponents will be the duty of the "A" players next year. Meanwhile, I will make an effort to send the champs (Mike Pagnanelli, Dagan Abdon, Pat Dorn, and Kyle Willis) their championship caps so they can brag to their friends and intimidate their competition.