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**Annual Coverage of the
Southern Pines Invitational**

Raging Rhoids Issue

Turtle-Worthy Indeed

Despite Raging ‘Rhoids Michael Wood Becomes the First Repeat Winner of the Orb

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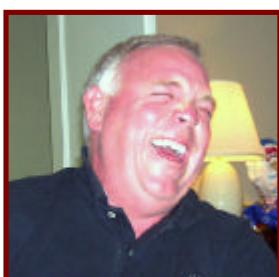
SOUTHERN PINES, North Carolina (DOD) – I don’t know about you, but I think Michael Wood is a funny guy. He has the uncanny ability to say the most outrageous things and get away with them. It’s the delivery. Even astute observations are hilarious when uttered by Woody in his inimitable way. For example, when Mike “Big Boy, Jr.” King said he wasn’t going on this year’s Golf Trip because a tree fell on his house, Woody drily asked “What’s that got to do with golf?” The answer, of course, is nothing. For Woody, though, such events serve only to inspire him to greatness. So it was at this year’s Southern Pines Invitational, as Woody became the first player to repeat as the winner of the Turtle.



Wood had suggested that King “stand up, reach down the front of his pants, and see if he could find some orbs.” Evidently unable to locate anything of consequence, King opted out of the event. That left only 11 players for the first Calcutta, the traditional kickoff for the tournament. Making a first time appearance was Michael “The Hoser” Moser. Moser replaced Papaw Trantham, who retired from retirement to become a Home Depot guy. After a moment of silence for Papaw, Wood led the players in a unison reading of *The Golf Trip Creed*. *The Creed* exemplifies the inspirational goal of each tour combatant to “conquer his foe, humiliate him, and plunder his fortunes.”



Even a player light, the Calcutta pot was a record for the first day. Q-Ball Kimmet, the PPM favorite, was acquired by “Mr. Monty” Walton, who was making a return to the event after a six-year sabbatical resulting from second-marriage domestication. Walton bid a robust amount for Kimmet. He also acquired two other players and half himself, thus owning a third of the field and the disapproval of “Mrs. Monty” for such wagering profligacy.



Later in the afternoon of the Calcutta, Toby “Hyko the Psycho” was able to lure in Larry “the Fairy” Cameron as the twelfth player. Despite only 14 hours notice and a grandiose beginning quota of 24 points, Cameron eagerly jumped on



the chance to contribute to the pot. Hyke's philosophy of setting Cameron's initial points can best be summarized as "first-time players always get screwed." Cameron was later sold for a paltry sum at a supplemental Calcutta held prior to Thursday's round.



The plan was to begin practice rounds on Wednesday at Rock Barn in Hickory. Eight of the 12 were scheduled to play there. Mother Nature failed to cooperate, though, with rain beginning as the players arrived. Plans thus altered, the players scattered to points east to pick up a few holes before the tournament began. Greg Logue's group got in nine holes at Little River Plantation before the rain caught up. Wood's group played 18 at Pine Needles. With a layover at the Homewood Suites in Pinehurst in honor of King's back, the players were rested and ready for the start of the tournament on Thursday.

Despite weather predictions of clear and sunny, Thursday's opening round at Pine Needles was played in near constant rain. Although the course was besotted with moisture, the scoring conditions for some were fairly good. The early favorite, Kimmet, crafted a nice plus 4 to win the first round and take the early lead for the Orb. Q-ball had won the tournament two years earlier, and was vying to be the first repeat champion. He had been



deprived of the Orb then when Wood declared him "un-Turtle-Worthy." Depot Stove Pressley was close behind at plus 3. Logue, predicted third by the PPM, finished there at plus 1. Walton played like a man coming off a long hiatus, recording only six points in the rain. But owning Kimmet helped ease the pain as Walton took in half of a nice opening pot.



After the round, Wood remarked that the strain of competition had caused his ailing piles to swell roughly to the size of small cantaloupes. Fortunately, Dr. Depot was available with his now legendary "Special Remedy," which last year proved so helpful to Kimmet's broke back. Stove offered the remedy to Wood, who, though grateful,



replied that his delicate condition couldn't take the pounding. Wood indicated he would simply have to pucker up and make the best of his condition for the rest of the tournament.

Walton's horrendous first-day play garnered the derision of his fellow players and no bids in the second Calcutta. In a bold (some would say deranged) move, Walton bravely bought himself at a bargain price. Someday the mysteries of golf may be revealed to those present, as Walton's maneuver proved uncannily prescient.



The second round at Mid Pines was one of best ever. The rain gave way to perfect weather that lasted through the weekend. Walton took advantage to post three points through the first three holes. Then he caught lightning in a bottle on the fourth. His second shot from around 140 yards looked good. Harvey "Papaw Jr." Abernethy, the only witness to the shot, said it had gone in. Walton

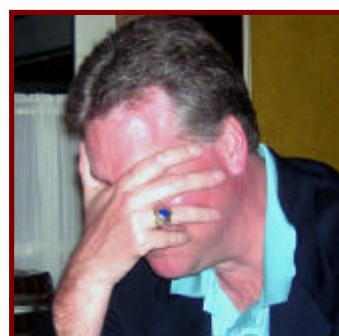


thought Harvey was just jerking his chain. But sure enough, when Walton arrived at the green, the ball was snugly in the bottom of the cup. The five-point eagle put Walton within two points of his quota after only four holes. Moments later, on the par-five fifth, Wood, who was playing in Walton's group, chipped in for eagle from about 60 yards out. It was the first time eagles were recorded on consecutive holes, following the Stove's unprecedented eagles on consecutive days last year.

Walton managed to ride his early success to victory at plus 6 with another eight points the rest of the way. Kimmet posted a strong plus 5 to take the lead at 9, one point ahead of Stove. Wood's eagle left him in contention with a plus 4 for the day, five points off the overall lead. With Calcutta wins on the first two days, including sole possession of the first place pot on Day Two, Walton was flush with cash and rather taken with himself. For the rest of the Trip, his biggest challenge was explaining to Mrs. Monty why it was advisable to continue wagering through the balance of the weekend.



At dinner that night, Wood looked to challenge the North Carolina Association of Proctologists to a repeat match. In previous years, the proctologists had always provided rich targets for Wood's barbs. Because the Trip was delayed this year as the result of unfortunate family planning, the proctologists had already gone home. Wood was left to chide the Pinch Brook Women's Gynecologist's Guild into a match. They were more interested in playing with themselves



than with any of the Golf Trip players. Wood remarked that he was forced to discontinue the same practice after his kids caught him at it for the fourth or fifth time. Logue was so amused by the remark that he almost choked on his Caesar salad.



The third round at Pine Needles was again greeted by fabulous weather. Jon "Hairball" Lawler stepped up with a nice plus 4 to take the win and register his first RVF round on tour. Ritchie "Mike King's Bitchy" Matlock finished second, with



Psycho showing at third. Meanwhile, Kimmet began his meteoric descent with a dismal minus 5, evidently brought on by untoward dissipations. Wood kept hanging around in contention at plus 1. With one day remaining, Pressley had forged a two point lead over Wood, with Kimmet now holding on to third, a point back.



The third round was also memorable as possibly the worst ever played by Logue in sixteen years on the Trip. Suffering from a wet grass injury since Thursday's round, the Loguemaster could muster only six points. Soon after, Logue began his now familiar refrain of "If I get to a single-digit quota, I'm quitting the game." Ever on the ready, Dr. Depot offered Logue the Special Remedy. Using a customized prosthetic stool to gain the proper angle, Depot was able to apply the cure to Logue. Imagine a Chihuahua nailing a Doberman and you get the idea. The Hoser also contributed a tip to help right Logue's game.

As a result of the treatments by the Hoser and Stove, Logue managed a miracle round on Sunday. His seventeen points yielded a plus 6, good for the win. Wood owned Logue in the Calcutta so the day was profitable for him. And because Dan Moore the Man Whore had Logue in the blind hog, Moore was able to go home with a few dollars despite a largely unproductive weekend, both on the course and in the clubhouse.



But the real Day Four drama played out atop the leaderboard, as Stove and Wood fought it out for the Turtle. Leading Wood by two at the start of the fourth round, Pressley was trying to etch his name on the Turtle for the first time. Wood was striving to become the first repeat recipient of the Terrapin, having won it in the first year of its existence. In the end the players switched places, as Wood held on for plus 2 to finish at plus 7. Pressley's dreams of immortality faded through his failure to point on a couple of crucial par fives. He finished the round at minus 2, in second place at plus 5 in the overall standings.



Aside from the eagle on Friday, Wood never played spectacularly. In the process, he managed a feat never before accomplished—winning the Turtle without registering a single RVF round in four days. His best was the plus 4 in round two that couldn't get him above fourth place for the day. His other rounds of 0, plus 1, and plus 2 also never got him in the money. But he played steadily with vigor and never went backward, in spite of ruptured hemorrhoids that will require surgical intervention after the Trip. In the

end, when the early leaders faltered, Wood was well positioned to, in the immortal words of *The Creed*, plunder the fortunes of his foes. For that, he is truly Turtle-Worthy indeed. Now his biggest concern is that his surgeon is a member of the North Carolina Association of Proctologists.¶

