

THE DIMPLED ORB *DIGEST*

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The Better Late than Never Issue.

Most Interesting Man.

Turtle Slam Redux.

Crony Capitalism.

Royal Wedding.

Tornadoes.

and more . . .



WIRE-TO-WIRE

Depot Stove Stays Hot To Claim the Turtle Slam.

Sunday, May 1, 2011. 1:14 PM EDT.

By Chuck Dumbáss, Publisher,

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SOUTHERN PINES, North Carolina (DOD) – Amid tornadoes, a royal wedding, and the end of the world’s most notorious terrorist, the biggest news of the weekend was the victory by Danny “Depot Stove” Pressley in the 2011 Southern Pines Invitational. The Stove stayed hot wire-to-wire over the four-day event in near record fashion to claim the tournament prize, the Terrapin Travelin’ Trophy. Also known as the Turtle, the Terrapin is not only the most coveted trophy in sport, it also functions as an elegant and accurate timepiece. In claiming the Turtle, the Stove also completed the rare Turtle Slam by winning the Templeton Cup. The Cup is awarded to the player with the highest total number of points in the tournament. The Stove’s Slam comes on the heels of the same feat accomplished last year by Greg “Stone Cold” Goddard. Perhaps now the theory that good players can’t win the Turtle has been laid to rest conclusively.



Wilhoit and Pressley at a recent charity gala.

The Stove’s decisive victory has already lead to a spate of notoriety and fame. Before Depot could even hang the Turtle on his wall, Knoxville news anchor Robin “The Sweetheart of the Golf Trip” Wilhoit had contacted him, begging for an interview. Wilhoit is a notorious admirer of the Stove’s turbid aphorism. Larry “The Stove-Whippin’ Barber” even called to apologize for the ass whippin’ he hung on the champion over thirty years ago. A source close to the Stove, speaking on the condition of anonymity, reported that negotiations have already heated up for an endorsement deal with [The Stove Depot](#), a high-end wood burning stove retailer. The deal is reported to be in the “high double figures.”

The STOVE DEPOT

your efficient heating solution
for today's energy requirements

The Stove himself, unfazed by all the attention, said in a prepared statement after the tournament, "I am so proud to be in possession of the Turtle trophy, and am honored and humbled to be in such great golfing company as the other past champions. I have already added this accomplishment to my bio for speaking engagements. Now, if anyone would like an autographed ball or glove, the line forms over there." Next stop on Depot's rise to fame may be the Champions Tour, as he is already scheduled to appear in the Greater Hickory Classic Senior event next month at Rock Barn. We just hope he remembers the all little people who helped him along the way.



Wood

The Tournament week had begun in earnest at the first Calcutta at Wolf, McClane on Monday in Knoxville. The field was back to sixteen after being cut to eleven in last year's disastrous final round. Michael "The Calcutta Chairman" Wood returned, looking for comeback player of the year honors following major surgery that kept him out of last year's event. After the retirement of Harvey Abernethy, Wood teamed up with Nathan "The Assassin" Nash, who is Goddard's nephew. Rumored to possess abilities akin to Goddard's, the Assassin came equipped with a robust 24-point beginning quota.

Nash



Moser

Stone Cold Goddard arrived as the two-time defending Templeton Cup champion and current holder of the Turtle after completing the coveted Turtle Slam a year ago. He teamed up with longtime playing partner Toby "Hoss Cartwright" Hyke. Back after a two-year hiatus was Jon "Hair Ball" Lawler, along with Mark "Cueball" Kimmet, Lawler's customary partner who also missed last year's event. Making his 21st consecutive start was Tournament Director Greg "The Loguemeister" Logue. He was paired with Michael "The Hoser" Moser, who decided to give it a go despite off-season shoulder surgery.



Logue

The rest of the field was comprised of the usual roustabouts, who spent most of last year's event ignominiously choking on Goddard's dust. They included Monty "Piledriver" Walton and his partner, Randy "Cool Breeze" Gibson; Depot's partner Dennis "Wilford Brimley" McClane; Richard "The Envy" Matlock and his cohort Mike "High Maintenance" King; and Norm "The Total Package" Templeton and his partner Dan "The Man" Moore.



Piledriver and Cool Breeze.



The Orbettes.

The first Calcutta featured a delightful buffet prepared by the lovely and talented Orbettes—Tina Zeits, Karen Cain, and Angie Rossini. The hit of the array appeared to be the white chocolate covered Oreo Orbs, which did not last through the program. All of the players appreciated the Orbettes' efforts and hope that a new tradition has been established.



The Templeton Cup appeared briefly.

Speaking of new traditions, the Templeton Cup also made its first appearance since 2009, being awarded briefly to Goddard and immediately withdrawn following the Calcutta ceremony.

After enjoying the annual slideshow, the ceremony began in earnest, with the Chairman conducting his first Calcutta since 2009. Hoping to avoid the "debuckle" that resulted in the cancellation of the final Calcutta last year, Wood displayed the panache that only he can bring. Yep, he's still got it—and the players to a man were glad to see him back in the saddle. With his inimitable aplomb, Wood coaxed out a nice first day pot, with Wood, McClane, and Pressley showing the best early form.



The Chairman is back in the saddle, as Lawler, Goddard, Kimmert, Walton, and Hyke listen intently.

As the tournament approached, all eyes were on the weather, as severe storms were on the horizon for the Wednesday and Thursday rounds. As it turned out, the players left town just ahead of a vicious, record-breaking weather cell that left devastation in its wake from Alabama to Virginia and beyond. In Knoxville, it hailed so hard the Earth itself was damaged, much to the chagrin of greenskeepers all over town, who were forced to top-dress their greens to alleviate the serious pitting left behind. Any car that was left out in the storm looked like a dimpled orb of a different sort. Many of the players' homes were damaged as well, but the cohort soldiered bravely on, leaving their loved ones behind to endure as best they could. Knoxville and its environs suffered what can only be described as minor inconveniences, though, when compared to the destruction wrought by the storm in Birmingham, Alabama, and other areas of the Southeast.

A deadly tornado loomed over Birmingham....



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The Arab Tribune



.... leaving destruction behind.

The Logue group, including Moser, Moore and Templeton, played their practice round at Cattails in Kingsport just hours ahead of a tornado that followed them up I-81. Logue and Moser witnessed the damage first hand on the return trip. That night in Greensboro, they stayed glued to the Weather Channel's accounts of tornado devastation all across the Southeast. Most of the rest of the field had wisely traveled all the way to Southern Pines on Wednesday, avoiding the storms and playing their practice rounds there.

New accommodations were required following last year's infestation. Tournament Director Logue outdid himself by booking the Ross Lodge at Pine Needles for this year's event. When the players arrived there beginning on Wednesday, they were thrilled with the huge upgrade. Overlooking a private tee on the Pine Needles practice range, and complete with its own [private goose](#), the Ross is ideal for a 16-man contingent. It appears the Golf Trip has found its new permanent home at the Ross Lodge. Reservations there are already complete for next year's tournament.



Lawler and a pal on the Ross practice tee.



The weather was beautiful after the storms.

Day one of the Tournament opened with a steady rain caused by the lingering storms in the aftermath of the tornadoes. Pine Needles closed shortly before the scheduled 1:00 pm start time. All the golfers that had been on the course were called in to await the resumption of play, which finally occurred with a shotgun start at about 1:30. A softened course helped many in the field, while others struggled. The weather actually turned quite pleasant, and by the turn the players could hardly tell that it had rained at all on the well-drained course.

New for 2012! Introducing the *Chevrolet Solyndra*, the first electric luxury vehicle. Made possible by a \$529 million loan from the U.S. Department of Energy, the Solyndra is manufactured in Finland in partnership with Fisker Automotive. U. S. purchasers receive a \$7,500 tax credit! It's crony capitalism at its best!



Powered by solar panels in the roof, the Solyndra delivers high impact luxury while maintaining a low impact on the environment.

You know you want it! Join that Crazy Sex Poodle Al Gore as one of the first to own the Solyndra -- a bold expression of responsible luxury! MSRP \$96,895.00. Tax, title, license, dealer fees, and options extra.

The Stove ruthlessly attacked the vulnerable course, and threatened to run away and hide, with a stupendous plus-11 round of 32 points. Evidently the change of work venues without tax returns paid big dividends for Depot. Moore and Gibson tried to keep Pressley in sight. Despite Moore's best career round of 21 points, he could only get within 2 of the leader at plus 9. Cool Breeze hung tough with a 22-point plus-8 round. The triad of Brimley, the Calcutta Chairman, and Hoss all turned in plus 5's, which on some days would bring a Calcutta win. None of them could get in the money on this day, though, as Depot dominated.

Bringing up the rear at minus 7 were the Package, Lawler, and the Assassin, who suffered the fate of so many first timers with overly enthusiastic beginning quotas. As Wood dryly observed before the Tournament, "Everybody plays well at home....we can all turn into Rory McElroy on the hallowed grounds of Pine Needles." The other contestants ranged from Logue's plus 1 to Piledriver's minus 4.



The Assassin struggled on the hallowed grounds.



You should have played golf, Bill.

Friday dawned to beautiful post-tornado weather. Due to bad scheduling on the part of the British Royal Family, who evidently failed to check the countdown clock on [The Dimpled Orb](#) website prior to the arrangements, the players missed the biggest wedding ceremony in years. Prince William and Kate Middleton tied the knot shortly before the start of play on Friday morning. This forced the ample use of DVR's, as the contestants readied for play and could not watch the ceremonies live. One hopes the Brits will do a better job of planning the next Royal Wedding so as not to conflict with another Golf Trip.

As is his custom, Moore was undaunted by missing the nuptials. He streaked to a 20-point plus-6 Calcutta win, his best ever on Mid Pines. He could only get within 1 of the leader, though, as Pressley held him off with a plus-5 round of 28. Cool Breeze stayed within 3 of the lead with a tidy 21, finishing at plus 5. That put him 5 clear of the fourth place golfer, Hoss Cartwright, who had a plus 3. McClane and Logue stood at plus 6 and 5, respectively, with the rest of the field, including Q-ball and Goddard, wallowing far behind. Q-Ball's game had inexplicably fallen on hard times, as he tried everything, including hair, to no avail. After two days, it was beginning to shape up as a three-man race, with Depot Stove still holding a vice grip on the lead.



Not even hair could help Kimmet.

At that evening's Calcutta, the Chairman introduced the players to a new convention -- the day's Calcutta winner buying a round of drinks for his table. That evening's bidding for the day three round at Pine Needles produced Wood as the favorite, followed by Pressley and Logue.

Let's all say it together—Day 3 at Pine Needles is Moving Day! And as is their custom, Mike “High Maintenance” King and his playing partner, Richard “The Envy” Matlock, did the most moving. King carded a strong, plus-10, 22-point, round, while Matlock came in with a plus 7, at 19. Needless to say, they also did quite well in the Calcutta, with Matlock owning his partner. Apart from those two, however, not much moving went on. Wood pulled third with a plus 3. The rest of the field hovered within a point or 2 of even, with Logue bringing up the rear at minus 5. Pressley and Moore both carded plus 1's, leaving Pressley still in the lead with



King moved on Day 3.

Moore 1 off the pace. Gibson fell to 6 behind the leader with a minus 2. King's movement was enough to get him to fourth at plus 10, still 7 behind Depot. Therefore, it looked as though the winner would emerge from the final group with Moore and Pressley. The next to last group with King and Gibson would have an outside chance to win with a strong final round showing.



Matlock profited.

The Day Four Calcutta was one of the more memorable evenings in Golf Trip history. It began with Templeton's institution of yet another tradition--the presentation of Templeton Cup Medals festooned with (go big) orange lanyards. Each player who has ever been first, second or third in the overall points standings since 2003, Templeton's first year, received a medal. Several players who are no longer active, like Papaw, Jr., Abernethy and Tiger Thompson, received medals in absentia. Reaching back to 2003 enabled Norm to award himself numerous medals for falling just short of winning the total points title on several occasions.



The Chairman tests his medal.



Tour de force.

The Templeton Cup Medals ceremony was followed by what may have been the Calcutta Chairman's finest hour. The troupe was treated to a *tour de force* of Calcuttamanship the likes of which may never be duplicated. I can't remember a thing that was said, but I know it was funny as hell. Michael we truly missed ye! The ribald evening yielded Goddard as the final day favorite, followed by Gibson and King.



*Maker's Mark salutes
Navy SEAL Team Six.*

*The Bin Laden Cocktail—
Two shots and
a splash of water.*

Please drink responsibly.



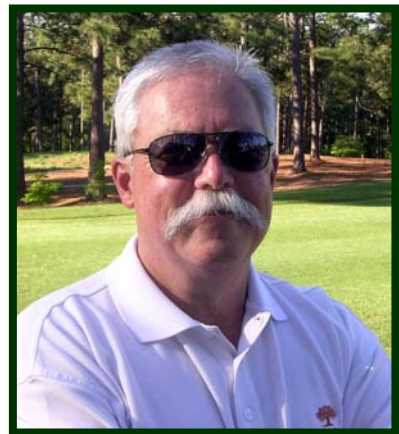
The ebb and flow of the final round with the Turtle on the line can be an excruciating weight to bear. The back nine at Mid Pines is littered with the souls of dozens of players who have gone McElroy on Sunday afternoon, hoping to etch their names on the Orb, only to have their hopes dashed at the last. Those ghosts were in evidence at the first tee, as the final group including Pressley, up by 1, and Moore squared off in the final round.



Moore

Pressley got off to a good start on the first hole, making par. Moore, meanwhile, knocked his second shot into the trees behind the green to draw a nub. Pressley added 7 more points over the next 6 holes, while Moore could manage only 4. It was on 8 that Moore began to make a move, going even par on holes 8 through 12, including a birdie on 10. Pressley managed 6 points over that span, which included the par-three 11th. It was there that the Stove left his tee shot on the sand cart path. Not knowing whether the course rules permit a drop from there, Pressley played it as it lay, eventually carding a 5. But he also played a provisional ball from a point of relief off the path until he could get an official ruling on whether a drop was allowed. He made four on that ball, only to learn after a call to the clubhouse that no relief is afforded from the sand paths. That left him with the double bogey 5 on 11, the only hole on which he failed to point all day.

After the devastating ruling on the 11th hole, a demoralized Stove was beginning to feel the Turtle slipping through his fingers. But with the encouragement of playing partner Dennis “Wilford Brimley” McClane, the Stove steeled himself for the back stretch.



Brimley steadied the Stove.

Both Moore and Pressley made pars on 12, so with two thirds of play complete, Moore was only 2 points off his quota, with Depot still 9 points short. Moore failed to point over the next two holes, while Depot hung tough to bogey each. Moore managed bogies on 15 and 16 to get his points to even, while Pressley added 3 more. By the 17th tee, the Stove had made inroads, but was still at minus 4 on the day. It was there that The Depot Stove showed what true champions are made of, nailing his second shot to within 10 feet. He drained the birdie putt for three points, while Moore’s bogey attempt slid by. Thus by 18, the match was all square. The winner of the 18th would take home the Turtle.



Winning form.

Moore’s tee shot found the trees on the right. Punching out, he coaxed the ball greenside in three, but from there could not get up and down. The Stove, meanwhile, rifled his drive down the middle and found himself just short of the green in two. Now needing only a bogey to win, Pressley was nearly overcome by acute, sudden onset, *severe anus contractus*, and sculled his chip clear across the green. Faced with a daunting two-putt, Pressley’s victory did not seem so secure. His lag putt moved several feet past the hole, leaving him with a knee knocking eight-footer for bogey.

With the sweat now visibly on his upper lip, The Depot Stove steeled himself for one last putt. With one stroke suddenly it was over, as the ball disappeared into the cup. The Stove had at last claimed a well-deserved one shot victory to an eruption of cheers from the other players assembled around the 18th green.

To top it off, the Stove's stellar wire to wire effort edged Goddard by 5 for the Templeton Cup, as he became the second straight player to claim the Turtle Slam.

Meanwhile, Piledriver Walton finally got his act together with a nice plus 8 to win the final day's Calcutta. But his move was too little to late, as he could manage only an eighth place finish. Logue pulled a nice plus 4 to garner second on the day, and tied with Walton overall. High Maintenance King finished third in the Calcutta with a plus 3 on the day. That was good enough to edge Cool Breeze for third in the Turtle Hunt. Cool Breeze fell to a minus 2 for the day to fade to fourth overall.



Piledriver captured Day 4.

As for The Depot Stove, he is still cooling off following four red hot days of a wire-to-wire victory. For a tumultuous week of weddings, tornadoes, and terrorists, the Stove's win is the most noteworthy event. Now he has what even the most interesting man in the world does not—his name engraved on the Turtle. We are blessed to live in interesting times.

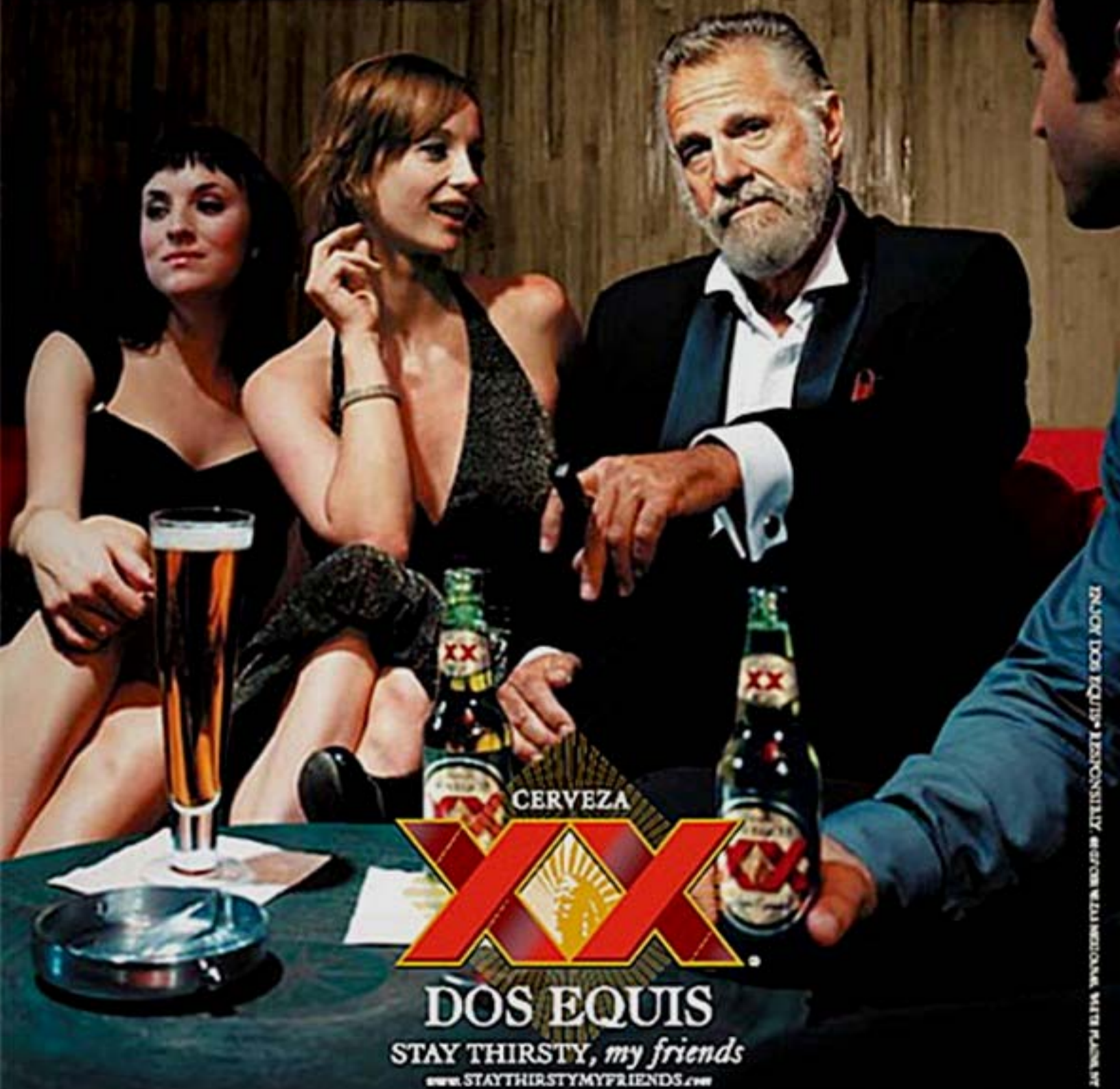


Stone Cold congratulates The Depot Stove on another Turtle Slam.



on Golf Trophies—

“I don’t always play golf for trophies.
But when I do, I prefer *The Turtle*.”

A group of four people are seated at a dark green bar. On the left, a woman with dark hair and bangs wears a black dress. Next to her, a woman with reddish-brown hair in a dark, patterned halter top is talking. In the center, an older man with a grey beard and hair, wearing a dark suit and white shirt, looks towards the right. On the far right, the profile of a younger man in a blue shirt is visible. On the bar are two bottles of Dos Equis Cerveza, a tall glass of beer with a thick head of foam, and a silver ashtray. The background is a rustic wooden wall.

CERVEZA

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