

THE DIMPLED ORB *DIGEST*

Volume XXIV

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Special Late Edition

Turtle Hunting with Grizz

Featuring:
Pitbull
Beethoven
Loose Geese
Grizzly Bears
The Idiocracy
Calcutta Revival
Ad Hoc Golf Lessons
and More . . .



Grizzly Adams Stalks the Turtle

TURTLE IN ABSENTIA

“GRIZZLY ADAMS” KING WINS THE TURTLE FROM KNOXVILLE.

“STONE COLD” GODDARD CLAIMS HIS THIRD TEMPLETON CUP.

From Sunday, April 27, 2014. 12:31 PM EDT.

By Chuck Dumbass, Publisher, and Richard “The Envy” Matlock, Staff Writer.

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King held on to receive the Turtle in Knoxville

SOUTHERN PINES, North Carolina (DOD). – The annals of the Golf Trip are often filled with thrilling stories of heroic finishes and sad stories of heartbreaking defeats. Competing for a prize with the *gravitas* of the Terrapin Travelin’ Trophy, a/k/a the Turtle, amplifies all aspects of the contest. Never was that more in evidence than in this year’s Southern Pines Invitational, when Mike “Grizzly Adams” King charged into the lead during a special Saturday *intermezzo* final round, and held on to capture his second career Turtle. The rest of the field could only limp home helplessly on Sunday morning, unable to catch even a fleeting glimpse of

King, who by then was safely ensconced back in Knoxville. In the absence of Danny “Depot Stove” Pressley, Greg Goddard assembled a round ample enough to claim his third Templeton Cup, and finish fifth in the overall standings. Goddard’s claim on the Cup came much to the chagrin of a tiring Norm “The Total Package” Templeton, who once again fell a single stroke shy of claiming the Cup he so much desires. Templeton’s second place overall finish was of no consolation, for it is the Cup that he most desires.



The curtain had gone up on the Twenty Fourth Annual Golf Trip just five days earlier, with the players assembled at the first Calcutta at its customary stop in Knoxville. This edition promised to be extraordinary, as two-time defending Turtle champion Mark “Q-Ball” Kimmet was going for a previously unthinkable third consecutive Turtle.

With the lowest First Day Projected Plus or Minus (PPM) in recent memory, however, the odds were certainly stacked against Q-Ball. Nonetheless, another win by Q loomed as a potential rendezvous with destiny. Kimmet once again teamed with Randy “Cool Breeze” Gibson, who, by contrast, entered the field with the year’s highest First Day PPM.



Q-Ball



Cool Breeze



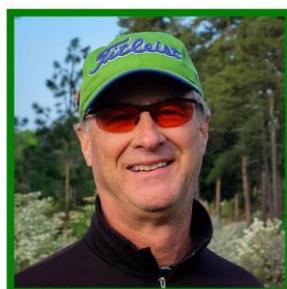
The Total Package



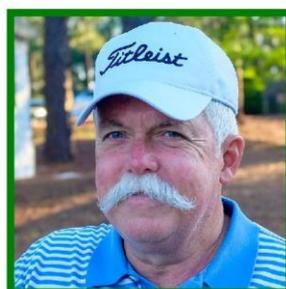
Dan The Man

The only change from last year’s field was the conspicuous absence of Depot Stove Pressley. Rumors swirled that Pressley’s absence was related to a dalliance with an unnamed Hollywood starlet, and the resulting marital fallout. Those rumors of “a Tiger Woods-type situation” were never confirmed, however. In the Stove’s absence, Templeton hoped to end the Stove’s grip on the Templeton Cup, and finally claim the prize that bears his name. Norm was paired with Dan “The Man” Moore, who tends to play well early only to fade at the last. Moore hoped to overcome final day doldrums to challenge for the Turtle.

In the Stove’s stead was Andy “Leaf” Neely, who made his second appearance, this time as Dennis “Wilford Brimley” McClane’s partner. Neely was the model of consistency in his only other Invitational appearance, and is known to possess breakout talent. Neely came in with high hopes of Turtle glory. Brimley overcame his Day Four aversion to Mid Pines in 2013, and hoped to parlay that into a Turtle win this year.



Leaf Neely



Wilford Brimley



Stone Cold



Hoss Cartwright

With the Stove out, Greg “Stone Cold” Goddard became one of the favorites for the Templeton Cup, which he eventually went on to win. A former Turtle Slam winner, Goddard seemed certain to challenge for the Turtle as well. Goddard’s partner, Toby “Hoss Cartwright” Hyke, hoped to better his disappointing performance in his last Invitational appearance, perhaps having played a few rounds since November.

King had challenged for the Turtle in 2013, only to falter badly in the final round. His new “Grizzly Adams” look may have helped him hunt down the Turtle this time. King’s partner, Richard “The Envy” Matlock, looked to overcome relatively modest recent performances to regain his former Turtle prominence.



Grizzly Adams



The Envy



Hairball Lawler



Tiger Thompson

Another Templeton Cup contender was Tracy “Tiger” Thompson, who had high hopes after a pedestrian final round in 2013. With his Day One quota slightly down, Thompson seemed poised to challenge for the Turtle Slam. Thompson’s partner, Jon “Hairball” Lawler, came in hoping to replicate his dominating performance in last year’s third round to contend for the Turtle this time.

Greg “The Loguemeister” Logue hoped to reverse his penchant for playing well on his home course only to fade at the Invitational. Logue hoped to reverse his trend toward becoming the nonplaying Tournament Director. Logue’s partner, Michael “The Hoser” Moser, was seeking to atone for his disastrous collapse in 2013 that saw him record his lowest career point total. Having fully healed from shoulder surgery, The Hoser looked well-positioned to claim his first Turtle.



The Loguemeister



The Hoser



The Chairman



The Assassin

Michael “The Chairman” Wood burns to end a personal drought of Turtle victories dating to 2006. With five outright or shared Golf Trip championships under his belt, The Chairman is always a threat. Wood’s partner, young Nathan “The Assassin” Nash, came into his fourth Invitational still seeking a Relative Value Factor (RVF) score. Nash hoped to settle his sometimes unruly youthful exuberance to finally claim a Calcutta share.

With the field thus assembled for an unusual Tuesday Calcutta ceremony, the festivities began in earnest. As is becoming a welcome tradition, the Orbettes--Karen Cain, Tronda O’Brien, Angie Rossini, and Tina Zeits--provided the victuals. The Orbettes turned in their customary stellar performance, with a nice assortment of Jack Daniels barbeque, topped off with desserts including the always popular Oreo Orbs.

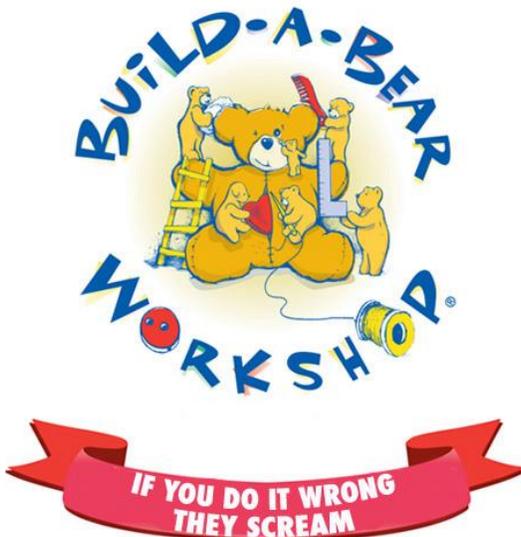


The Orbettes



The Assassinette stole the show

Neely was lukewarm at best. The rest of the field filled out the Calcutta in ways that bore little resemblance to reality. With yet another Calcutta in the can, the bulk of the players broke for Southern Pines the next day.



Day One greeted the players with beautiful blue skies for the Thursday afternoon round on Pine Needles. Despite the benign appearance, the course had some bite. Playing conditions were hard and fast, and the course was unwilling to yield the usual first day high scores. Bucking that trend was Leaf Neely. Serving notice that he was here to play, the Leaf's steadiness resulted in a blistering plus 4 that claimed the Day One win. Cool Breeze Gibson lived up to his early PPM promise by carding a plus 2 to claim second on the day. Gibson appeared ready to challenge for his first Turtle. King pulled a neat plus 1 to take third on the Day, positioning himself nicely. None of the rest of the field could manage a positive point total.

After two years, the chickens finally came home to roost for Kimmet. Saddled with a high quota from his back-to-back-wins, Q-Ball limped home at minus 6. Hoss Cartwright's rust showed, as he matched Kimmet's score. Perhaps due to the tough playing conditions, Tiger Thompson found himself twelve shots back with a stunning and inexplicable minus 8. Moore and Lawler were not much better, carding minus 5's.



Neely took the early lead



Logue's injury forced him to withdraw

Nash at minus 3 and Matlock at minus 4 languished, while the rest of the field matched their quotas. Logue, who by this time was fighting back spasms resulting from too much luggage, managed to pull his first day point quota. At the end of Day One, Steely Neely looked to be in control, with Gibson nicely positioned. Grizzly Adams King prowled in third.



Papaw Cool Breeze

Friday also found the Loguemeister in greater distress. The back spasms had worsened to the point that Logue was on the verge of withdrawing from the tournament. He gamely gave it a go, but by the end of the round was in visible pain on every shot. Despite the discomfort, Logue managed to crawl in with a respectable minus 1 on the day. All in all it was a valiant performance under dire circumstances.

Meanwhile, Day Two belonged to Logue's partner, Michael "The Hoser" Moser, who grabbed first on the day in a tie with Lawler at plus 3. In so doing, Hoser managed to atone for his last place debuckle in 2013. Lawler continued his good play to register a share of a daily win for the second consecutive year. Reflecting the continued tough scoring conditions, three players, Wood, Neely, and Matlock, shared third at plus 1. With the rest of the field at zero or below on the day, Neely had extended his lead. With Gibson out, Moser had moved into second place, three shots back. King's minus 2 on the day left him six back of the lead in sixth place.

Day Three dawned to ideal playing conditions on Pine Needles. They were of no benefit to Logue, however, as his back pains had him nearly incapacitated. Having been attacked by everything from pine cones to soap over the years, Logue's run of bad luck on the Golf Trip simply continued. He tried to play, but was forced to sit out this round and the next, and act as non-playing Tournament Director for the balance of the weekend. With Cool Breeze gone and Logue sidelined, the field had dwindled to 14 by Saturday morning.

Gibson's promising start ended early; Day Two at Mid Pines dawned with the news that Cool Breeze had departed for points north. His daughter had gone into early labor, and Gibson caught a flight for Milwaukee in an effort to be present for the birth of his grandchild. He did not get there in time for the birth, but did arrive later in the day and reported back that mother and child were doing fine. What had begun as a promising chance at the Turtle ended abruptly for Cool Breeze.



Day Three at Pine Needles has seen its share of big moves, and this year was no exception. Thompson was able to forge a break out round at plus 7 to win the day. His round could gain him no purchase overall, however, as his disastrous first two days left him at minus 6, still 8 shots behind the leader.



Thompson made the biggest move on Moving Day

Templeton made the boldest move of the day to grab second with a plus 6. That was good enough to move him one shot behind Leaf Neely, whose minus 2 brought him back to the pack, but still in the lead at plus 3.

Moser shared second with Templeton, pulling an even 21 points and a share of third on the day. The rest of the field could manage no better than even, with four players, including Moser, grabbing third at that level. Among them was Hoss Cartwright, who knocked off enough rust to register an RVF score. Also claiming a share of third on the day was King, who remained fourth in the Turtle Hunt despite a three-day total of minus 1. Heading into the final round, King had crept to within 4 of the leader, Neely.



After the third round, it was revealed that Matlock's daughter had been chosen to play at the Youth Aliyah Violin Competition in Knoxville on Sunday afternoon. Not wanting to pass up the opportunity to take in Beethoven's Opus 18 No. 1 F Major, 1st and 2nd Movements, and reminiscent of Templeton's "school play gambit" of some years back, Matlock decided to miss Sunday's round to attend the concerto. Inasmuch as Matlock was King's ride home, King also elected to depart early. After a lengthy meeting, the Rules Committee determined that King and Matlock could play their final rounds at Mid Pines on Saturday afternoon.

And that they did, with Neely and Templeton along as spotters. Matlock managed to pull his points, improving dramatically over his dismal minus-5 morning round. That still left him at minus 8 overall, which relegated him to a tenth place finish in the final standings.



Grizzly starts his long Day Three on Pine Needles

Grizzly Adams, on the other hand, saw an opportunity to go Turtle hunting. King's plan was to post a high score in the Saturday afternoon round, and be the leader in the clubhouse before heading home on Sunday morning. King, a big fan of the A Team as a kid, loves it when a plan comes together.

The afternoon round at Mid Pines started slowly for King, as he played the first four holes with only 1 point on his scorecard. Widely known as a man of prodigious length (he also hits a golf ball a long way), King began to find his game on the back-to-back par fives on the front nine. On number five, he had a two-footer for par. The spotters commented that in a friendly game, that putt would be conceded. But all of us know this is no friendly game. This was for the Turtle. King, of course, proceeded to miss the putt. But that miss seemed to awaken Grizzly Adams from hibernation. He proceeded to point on every other hole on the front nine, finishing with a solid 8 points through nine holes, only 3 shy of his quota.

King began the back nine as loose as a goose full of Metamucil. After pointing on the par five tenth, King's game again hit the skids. His play on the par-three 11th is best compared to Bono's bike ride through Central Park. King then made a questionable club decision on 13 that was rivalled only by his questionable car purchase after graduating law school (a Honda Del Sol). King's Del Sol-like game continued to leak oil until he reached the magical 15th hole. Many a Turtle has been won or lost on the downhill par five and this would be no different.



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Grizzly Adams blasted a tee shot that left him between a five or six iron to get home in two. Matlock's contribution to the effort (besides picking King's ball out of the cup all day so King would not risk back spasms) was to place the five iron in King's hand. The five iron was struck true and the ball flew over the top of the pin, leaving Grizzly with a downhill 30 foot putt for eagle. With the fate of the Turtle in the balance, King somehow hit his eagle putt only halfway to the hole, leaving himself a 15 footer for birdie. A hushed silence fell over Mid Pines as King gently stroked his birdie putt. The putt slowly matriculated down the slope toward the hole, came to a stop on the low side, and hung there long enough for rapper Pitbull to shout "Timber!" Inexplicably the ball defied the laws of gravity and finally disappeared into the cup. Matlock, in disbelief, rushed to the cup to retrieve the ball, as Grizzly Adams let loose a roar befitting his name. With that birdie, King had officially grabbed the Tournament lead.



King charged into the lead with a birdie on 15

Feeling the full weight of the Turtle on every shot thereafter, Grizzly managed to pull a couple of additional points on the final three holes. Adams finished his final round 5 above his quota, with a respectable plus 4 for the week. Most importantly, he was the leader in the clubhouse. King's plan had come together, but his plan was not complete.

After the end-of-the-round as handshakes and pleasantries had been exchanged, King dispatched Matlock to put the clubs in the car, because King needed to pay a visit to a special friend. With a move he may have learned from Coach Boeheim during his college days at Syracuse, King was next seen shaking hands with the Mid Pines greens keeper. Whether King slipped the greens keeper a hundo with that handshake, or was simply congratulating the greens keeper on the Mid Pines redesign, we may never know. What we do know is the Sunday pin placements were the toughest the players had ever seen. From the fairways, it appeared the flags were placed on the banks of water hazards and in the middle of bunkers.





Mrs. Bell gave an ad hoc lesson. . .



. . . much to McClane's amusement

Meanwhile back at the Ross Lodge, several of the players sojourned with Pappys and cigars, taking in the lovely Southern Pines ambiance. They were treated to a rare glimpse of the Matriarch of Mid Pines, Peggy Kirk Bell. Mrs. Bell came tooling by in her golf cart, driven by her personal assistant. The players were able to flag her down for a brief photo session and *ad hoc* golf lesson. Leaving them with the advice of “keep your head down and your left arm straight” Mrs. Bell headed off into the sunset, much to McClane’s amusement.



The Calcutta Revival



Preach it Brotha Wood



A limber evangelist

Before dinner that evening, Wood conducted the final Calcutta of the week. With Cool Breeze and the Loguemeister out, and King and Matlock’s scores known, those players were eliminated from the bidding, and the Calcutta slate was reduced to twelve players. In an effort to gin up interest in the diminished field, the Calcutta Chairman attempted to channel Elmer Gantry, standing on his chair and bellowing to the heavens. To the shouts of “preach it Brotha!” the result was a Calcutta of epic, revivalist, proportions. The smart money seemed to favor Moser to win the day and perhaps catch King for the Turtle.

And so the final round began. Grizzly “Catch Me If You Can” Adams departed for Knoxville atop the leaderboard, but he was not out of the woods yet. King was only 1 ahead of Neely, and 2 ahead of Moser and The Package. Beginning Championship Sunday, it was now time for Neely, Moser, and The Package to try to trap the Turtle. With the weight of the Turtle on their backs, the pressure would clearly be on them, now the challengers, to catch King in their final round on Sunday.



Moser played in the next to last group, with Templeton and Neely playing last. It became evident early on that the challengers were struggling. By the eighth green, Neely's partner Brimley remarked that it did not appear anyone was going to catch Grizzly Adams.

By the turn, Moser and Neely each had 9 points. Their chances were dimming and they were running out of holes. Evidently the weight of the Turtle finally caught up with Leaf Neely. In contrast to his early steady play, Neely managed only 6 points on the back nine. He faded to minus 4 on the day and wound up fourth.

Moser fared better on the back nine with 11 points. But closing with three consecutive bogies did him no favors. That left him at minus 1 overall and tied for second, three shots behind King. Moser's turnaround from last year is remarkable, and he should be proud of that accomplishment. But those last three bogies may haunt him for a while.

As for Templeton, he had recorded 13 points after nine holes and still had a chance to catch King. Playing on a quota of 25, Templeton knew he would have to garner 16 on the tough Mid Pines back nine to beat the leader. But that was not his main concern. Stone Cold Goddard had started the day one up on The Package for the Templeton Cup. Templeton wagered that a final round 29 would not only beat King, but would also be enough to catch Goddard for the Cup.



Neely faded on the back nine



This shot from the path doomed the Package

With bogies on 10, 11, and 12, however, Templeton's chances for the Turtle began to fade. From there, he would have to play even par just to tie King. A gritty par 3 on 13 kept him in the hunt, but another bogie on 15 meant he would need at least one birdie coming in. His fate was sealed on 17. Trying to cut the corner too close, Templeton blocked his tee shot into the trees on the right. His second off the sanded cart path left him virtually no chance at par, let alone birdie. When the dust had settled, Templeton walked off the 17th green with double bogie and no shot at the Turtle. His par on 18 was not enough to catch the Turtle, and left him at minus 1 on the day, tied for second place overall. Goddard also finished at minus 1, so he and Templeton ended the day as it began in the total point standings, giving Stone Cold the Templeton Cup for the third time.

Reflecting the tough pin placements thanks to King's largesse, the rest of the pack ended well back, with Thompson placing sixth at minus 6. One bright note was the Assassin's tie for the truncated Calcutta win to finally register an RVF score. Still, only three players ended the week with positive points. King's plus 4 was the lowest winning total since 1992, the second year of the Trip.



Nash finally registered an RVF

Having left for Knoxville, King found out via Twitter during the Fourza Quartet intermission that he had won the Turtle. At the presentation ceremony the next day, King seemed genuinely surprised that his score had held up against the other contenders. But it really was no surprise. Putting up a good number early and letting the rest of the field shoot at it is usually a winning strategy.

With a prize as big as the Turtle, most of the time the others won't be able to handle the pressure. King planned it perfectly, and now has etched his name on the Turtle for the second time. Hats off to Mike "Grizzly Adams" King, the 2014 Southern Pines Invitational champion.



The Package congratulates Stone Cold on his Cup win



King seemed surprised that his lead held up



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