

THE DIMPLED ORB *DIGEST*

Volume XX

April 25, 2010

Turtle Slam

Gov't Run Golf Trip?

Creeping Soccer

Terrapin Czar

Pestilence

and more . . .



The Office
of the
Terrapin Travelin' Trophy

TURTLE SLAM!

GREG GODDARD WINS THE TURTLE SLAM AS THE PRESIDENT THREATENS GOVERNMENT TAKEOVER OF A GOLF TRIP IN TURMOIL.

Sunday, April 25, 2010. 12:32 PM EDT.

By Chuck Dūmbáss, Publisher, in Southern Pines, and Genghis Corn, Chief Political Analyst, in Washington.

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Goddard acheived the Turtle Slam.

SOUTHERN PINES, North Carolina, and WASHINGTON D. C. (DOD). – **W**hite House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs touched off a firestorm of controversy today by announcing that President Barack Hussein Obama intends to nationalize the Terrapin Travelin' Trophy. Known to its aficionados as "The Turtle," the Trophy is awarded annually to the winner of the Southern Pines Invitational Golf Trip Tournament. It is universally recognized as the most desired trophy in sport. In a move that symbolizes fairness, Gibbs said the President would call upon Congress to mandate the distribution of Turtle replicas to all Americans.



New Terrapin Czar?

Sources close to the President also whispered that he may be set to name disgraced PGA star Tiger Woods as the new "Terrapin Czar" to oversee the rollout of the *Faux Turtles*. Due to the financial costs of Woods's recent indiscretions, and his poor play of late, the job of Terrapin Czar would seem a natural for him. Chief of staff Rahm Emanuel was also said to be under consideration for the post.

Congressional Democrats hailed the move as recognition of their long-cherished belief that turtle-worthiness is a basic human right. With the nationalization of auto companies, financial institutions, and the health care system, progressives also believe the move furthers the President's goal to "transform America." Conservatives were critical, however. An outraged Greg "Loguemeister" Logue, Director of the Southern Pines Invitational, called the proposal "further evidence of creeping soccer."

Displaying a prototype *Faux Turtle* replica today on NBC's *Meet the Press*, Gibbs also told moderator David Gregory that "the President will endeavor to add the actual Turtle to his already impressive list of awards," which includes the [Nobel Peace Prize](#), the [Stanley Cup](#), and the [Heisman Trophy](#). Gibbs said, "President Obama believes he would be a worthy recipient of the Turtle." Continued Gibbs, "Breathes there a golfer alive who wouldn't give his eyeteeth to have the Turtle? I think not. Despite never having been invited to participate in the Southern Pines Invitational, this President, himself an avid golfer, will seek to requisition the Turtle as vital to national security."

Declaring that the Turtle is “too big to fail,” Gibbs also hinted that there might be a move afoot in Congress to nationalize the Golf Trip itself, following several chaotic weeks. Concluding his remarks, Gibbs said “We believe this administration can do a better job of Calcutta planning, coordination of high school drama events, ball identification, and pest eradication. Moreover, the President is better at Charades than any of the current Golf Trip participants. For those reasons, the President may seek a national Golf Trip Agenda.”



Gibbs told Gregory of plans to nationalize the Turtle.

In response, a defiant Logue was quoted as saying: “If that [President] wants the Golf Trip from me, he’ll have to pry it from my cold dead fingers.”

Logue was defiant at the prospect of a nationalized Golf Trip.



The controversy erupted midway through the final round of the Invitational, as the tournament concluded today in Southern Pines, North Carolina. Firing an impressive final round score of 31 points, Greg Goddard overcame a two-point deficit to wrest the Turtle away from a tiring Michael “The Hoser” Moser, who finished four shots back. In claiming the Turtle, Goddard also completed the previously unthinkable feat of winning the Templeton Cup in the same year, the first time any golfer in world history has completed the coveted “Turtle Slam.” This is the second straight year that

Goddard has claimed the Cup. Unfortunately, the Cup could not be found for the awards ceremony, adding chaos to a tournament already embroiled in controversy. Normally, the winners of the Cup and the Turtle have the right to possess and display the Trophies during the ensuing year. Last year the Cup inexplicitly disappeared after the awards ceremony and was never awarded to Goddard. With the whereabouts of the Cup again unknown, and the White House’s controversial announcements today, the future of the awards was cast into serious doubt.



News at 11:00
Straight from the Heart with Robin Wilhoit.



Rumors swirled around Washington about the source of the President's interest in the Turtle. Some speculated that the President's desire was piqued after he stumbled across dimpledorbn.net, the official website of the Southern Pines Invitational, while websurfing during a Hawaiian vacation. Others attributed the desire to a recent meeting with Woods. According to an Oval Office insider who requested anonymity, Woods whetted the President's appetite for the Turtle by showing the President a *Faux Turtle* during the meeting, while describing the Reptile's notoriety. Given Woods' recent marital difficulties, and the now remote possibility of Woods ever claiming the Trophy, speculation is rife that President Obama desires to fill that void himself. Regardless of the source of the President's interest in the Turtle, today's announcements cast a pall over the normally ebullient participants in the Southern Pines Invitational.



Woods may have piqued the President's interest in the Turtle.



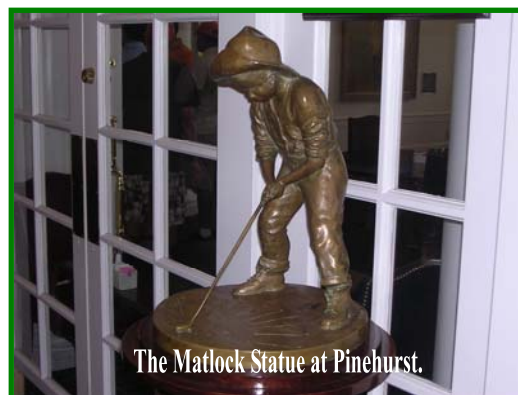
The White House bombshells came without warning only weeks after the chaotic prelude to the tournament began to unfold. First, Tracy "Tiger" Thompson withdrew by anonymous E-mail after it was rumored that he had checked into in a Mississippi health clinic. Thompson is now the subject of a nationwide search. Then in a serious blow to the efficacy of the Calcutta, Michael "The Chairman" Wood was forced to withdraw due to an illness that will require surgery after the tournament. The good news is that it is believed the condition can be treated with laser surgery and that Wood will make a full recovery. We are all praying for that to be the case. On the heels of Wood's departure, his partner, Harvey "Papaw, Jr.," Abernethy also withdrew, as did Jon "Hairball" Lawler and his partner, Mark "Q-Ball" Kimmet.

With the field thus whittled to eleven, Thompson's exit paved the way for the return of Randy "Cool Breeze" Gibson to replace Thompson as Monty "Piledriver" Walton's partner. Cool Breeze has become a welcome addition to the tour. The rest of the field included Dennis "Wilford Brimley" McClane and his compatriot, celebrity tax accountant Danny "Depot Stove" Pressley, recently [feted](#) in Knoxville gadabout Sam Venable's column; Michael "The Hoser" Moser, and his partner, The Loguemeister; the team of Don "The Mon" Moore and Norm "The Total Package" Templeton; Toby "Hoss Cartwright" Hyke, and his



Abernethy and The Chairman were forced to withdraw.

partner Greg “No Nickname” Goddard; and defending champion Mike “Big Boy, Jr.,” King, and his cohort, Richard “Putterboy” Matlock.



Commencing on the Tuesday before the event, the first Calcutta was held in its usual haunt at the Woolf, McClane law firm in Knoxville, Tennessee. With the absence of Wood, the mantle fell to Hoss Cartwright to act as temporary Calcutta Chairman until Wood’s return. Hoss’s usual accounting duties were performed by the firm of Depot, Stove & Pressley, PLLC. Hoss serviceably conducted the Calcutta, but without the panache of the Chairman. Following the ceremony, there were discussions among the tournament committee to take some vigorish off the Calcuttas and send Hoss to auctioneer’s school. Wilford Brimley McClane was the heavy early line favorite amid rumors of his playing golf alone in the snow seeking redemption from



Hoss Cartwright displays his dynamic Calcutta style.

last year’s Turtle debacle. The Hoser was also among the favorites, followed by Cool Breeze, Goddard, and Hoss. Piledriver was voted by his peers as the least likely to succeed, barely exceeding the minimum bid from his reluctant partner. With the first Calcutta under wraps, and unaware of the political imbroglio that would soon grip the Tournament, the players prepared for their departures to Southern Pines.

The Logue Group, including The Package, Hoser, and Moore, headed for the Cattails course at Meadowview in Kingsport, Tennessee, Norm’s hometown. Loguemeister played well, carding a +4, while the others struggled on the Cattails greens that were slicker than snot on a glass doorknob. The filmed account of the Cattails Emergency Nine is available [here](#).



Polies proved profitable for the Breeze.

Piledriver, Cool Breeze, Goddard, and Hoss traveled all the way to Southern Pines for an afternoon pretournament round on the Mid Pines course. It was there that Cool Breeze and Piledriver began a weekend-long dominance of Hoss and Goddard in a variation of bingo, bango, bongo called “greenies, polies, and bendovers.” Space won’t permit an explanation of such diversions. Suffice to say that Cool Breeze demonstrated that his wagering acumen outpaces his golf skills. Hoss was never able to recover from the trouncings he and Goddard took at the hands of Walton and Gibson throughout the weekend. Brimley, Depot, Putterboy, and Big Boy, Jr., arrived in Southern Pines without the benefit of preliminary rounds.



Piledriver scored almost at will.



With all the participants finally gathered, play began at High Noon on Thursday at Pine Needles. The conditions were ideal, as the sky looked like it had been washed with Tide. Despite low Calcutta interest, Piledriver defied the oddsmakers to lead an all-South-Knoxville contingent with a strong +3. Making smart use of his hybrid on every hole, Piledriver kept the ball in play and, reliving younger days, scored almost at will. Walton’s exuberance could not be contained, as he belted out a catchy rendition of [You Are My Sunshine](#) on the 15th tee, and declared that the hardest part of the Trip was returning home and explaining to his wife how he had earned the nickname “Piledriver.” Hoss carded a +2 to grab second, followed by Goddard at +1. Logue brought up the rear with a -6, unable to capitalize on his strong preliminary round.

That afternoon, the Real Time Leaderboard went online for the first time ever during tournament play to allow Golf Trip fans world wide to keep up with the results. Depot Stove remarked that his Day One -4 induced online catcalls from the folks back home.

Hoss did a better job on that evening’s Calcutta with long distance exhortations from Chairman Wood, who called with good medical news. Meanwhile, Hoser vowed that he would improve on his -1 to win on Day Two. In the richest Calcutta of the weekend, Depot and Hoss were the Day Two favorites. Hoser’s vow merited favorite status as well.



Day Two opened at Mid Pines on Friday. Playing in the last group, Hoser was steady to pull 12 points on the front nine. Turning with a 3-point birdie on 10, he added another 12 the rest of the way to finish with 27 points. The +5 yanked the lead away from Piledriver, whose -3 dropped him into a fourth place tie with Putterboy at even.

Goddard was able to move into a tie for first with an exemplary 31-point, +3 performance. Observers observed that Goddard was extremely solid all day. Cool Breeze's +2 was enough to garner third at +1. The rest of the field was lackluster, stumbling around, saddled with negative numbers. Logue still held last place in a race to the bottom with Depot, who was one back.

Goddard was solid after two days.



With putts like these, Moser grabbed the Day Two lead.



After observing the Day Two Leaderboard, an obviously disappointed Calcutta Chairman tried to encourage the players via the Dimpled Orb [Facebook Fan Page](#), remarking presciently, "Does anybody really want the Turtle? Greg G. looks strong, the class of the field. Good playing Moser! Randy, I've trained you for this moment. Seize it! Hoss, Stove, and Dennis, so much for your promises to win for ole Michael. If I die, may your failures haunt you. Bid high and often. The Chairman."

That evening, perhaps due to the admonitions and absence of the Chairman, Depot Stove regaled his dinner companions with hilarious tales of his exploits as a celebrity tax accountant on the interview circuit, and the ass-whipping he once took at the hands of Logue's barber. Logue was laughing so hard that some thought he might need a change of clothes following dinner.

A promotional advertisement for Terminix. On the left, a large green sign features the text "Call Us Now For a FREE Quote" at the top, followed by the "TERMINIX" logo in bold white letters, and the tagline "Power over pests." below it. At the bottom of the sign, it says "SAVE \$30 OFF PEST SERVICE OR 10% OFF TERMITE". To the right of the sign, a man in a light-colored shirt and dark pants, wearing a cap, stands next to a woman in a blue striped shirt and tan pants. They are both smiling and looking towards the camera.

Later, Hoss improved his performance somewhat at that evening's Calcutta, but it was becoming apparent that the Chairman's absence was profound. Hoss's efforts could gain no purchase, as the pot dwindled from the day before. Depot Stove and Big Boy, Jr., neither with a particularly profound PPM, found themselves the favorites heading into Moving Day.

A Moving Day Favorite.



Day Three at Pine Needles is always Moving Day. The theory is that Pine Needles is the more playable of the two courses. After the players have two rounds under their belts, they have a feel for the Pine Needles greens. This often results in large point swings on Day Three. This phenomenon normally does not manifest in the Day Four rounds on the tougher greens at Mid Pines. Moving Day 2010 proved out this theory, but was also the strangest day in recent Golf Trip memory.

Moving Day belonged to Brimley.



The day began with The Package's continuing battle with the Southern Pines fauna. It did not seem bother his game, though, as he fired a strong +3. At the conclusion of the round, the Package looked to be in third place tied with Piledriver. The day belonged to Brimley, though, as he finally realized the promise of extensive snow practice to take the win with a slick +5. Hoser would have tied for the win but for a tragic case of mistaken identity on the 18th hole. Before playing his second shot, Hoser interpreted the "3" on Norm's Titleist as a "5," and hit Norm's nugget. After correcting the error, Hoser managed to bogey the hole.

But the resulting 2-stroke penalty removed the point from Moser's card, leaving him at +4 in what he thought was sole possession of second. Piledriver arrived at 18 thinking he was tied for third with Norm at +3 on the day. That is where he finished after double bogey on 18.

At dinner that evening, Piledriver's partner recollected that Piledriver's score should have been a +4. After a tongue lashing from the Tournament Director for turning in a wrong scorecard, Piledriver's score was corrected on the World Wide Real Time Leaderboard, and Walton was placed in a second place tie with Hoser.

Hoser's boner cost him a share of a Day Three win.



At the end of Day 3, despite the *faux pas* on 18, Hoser still sat atop the Leaderboard at plus 8, followed closely by Goddard at plus 6, Walton at plus 4, and Gibson at plus 2. It looked as though the winner would come from the final group that included Hoser and Goddard, who would go head to head at Mid Pines if the weather permitted play to continue.

Norm bailed early for a musical.



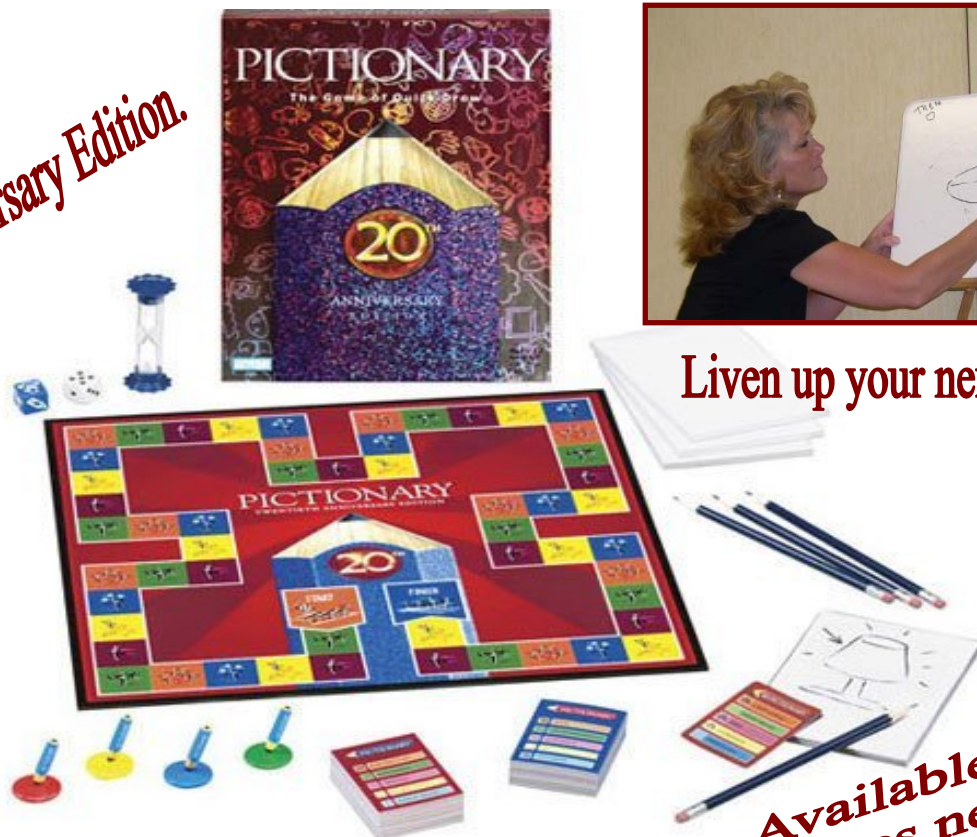
With the thunderstorms predicted for Sunday's round, several players indicated they were considering heading home early on Sunday morning if foul weather preempted play. After agonizing over the decision and his sleeping conditions all weekend, the Package opted to make an early departure to attend his children's high school musical. That put Moore to walking and looking for a ride home, which eventually was provided by the Loguemeister. Brimley and Depot indicated they did not intend to hang around if there was rain.

Then in a stunning development, on a motion by Logue and after a vote, it was determined to cancel the Calcutta, rather than sort out refunds if the Sunday rounds were rained out. It marked the first time since its inception that the Calcutta was cancelled for a round. When Calcutta Chairman Wood later learned of the decision, he vowed to return next year to restore order to a Golf Trip increasingly in disarray. With the Calcutta off and several players heading to the hotel for better accommodations, the remaining players were forced to amuse themselves in a rousing game of Charades led by Depot Stove. The Stove was outstanding in a demonstrative depiction of Hoss's old nickname.

The Stove was outstanding at Charades.



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The players awoke Sunday amid trepidation that the final round would be washed out. The radar looked grim as the round began, but slowly the clouds parted, and by 10 am, the sun was out. It never rained and was quite balmy, but windy.

Playing in the final group, Hoser and Goddard went head to head all day. On 17, Goddard held a 1 point lead and double-bogeyed. Hoser could not take advantage, though, as he, too, doubled. They went to 18 with Goddard still clinging to his 1 point advantage. Unaware of the politics enveloping the Golf Trip, Goddard salted it away with a gutsy birdie, while Hoser could gain no more with a second straight double bogey. Perhaps the weekend's dissipations and the weight of the Turtle finally caught up with the ole' Hoser at the last. Even so, Goddard



Hoser gave out at the last.

showed the grit of a true champion, seizing the Turtle and putting a cherry atop a record run to his second straight Templeton Cup. After canceling the Calcutta, Logue ironically won the day with a +2, and eventually climbed out of the cellar to tie for sixth with Don Moore and Brimley. Walton was never in it and fell to third at even with a mundane -4. Big Boy, Jr., managed a +1 to tie for second on the day with Goddard and wind up fourth overall at minus 1.

After the conclusion of the tournament, it was learned that the Longleaf is unavailable for next year's event, scheduled to begin on April 28, 2011. Unless other accommodations are arranged, next year's tournament may be relocated. This was the final blow to the 2010 Golf Trip, awash in a swirling mélange of withdrawals, miscues, cancellations, pestilence, mistaken identity, wrong scores, early departures, lost trophies, and of course spotty play. The Trip now faces its darkest hour, with the grim prospect of a government takeover. Greg Goddard has the Turtle for now, but that could change at any moment. We can be optimistic that the return of the Calcutta Chairman will help to restore order out of this chaos, but his return remains uncertain. In this year of dismay, the steady play of Greg Goddard, winning the Turtle Slam, was the one lodestar we could all follow and believe in. It remains to be seen whether his inspiration will be enough to thwart the forces of kakistocracy, who would seek to claim the Turtle as their own. Time will tell if Goddard's Slam keeps the Turtle out of government hands.





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