

Winnetka Cup Details - Please delete



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Men's Club,

Happy holiday weekend. Our collective mood is somber as we face only 3 1/2 months left of golf. We recover quickly to take care of what's hurtling toward our windshields: FALL GOLF.

Before we get to that, we must recant the accident scene at the National Friday. Elms, the northern cohort of the two that has had a prideful and just perch above Oaks in recent history, was treated to a rather indignant defeat at the hands of the dreaded Oaks. We will go through these in record time:

Match 1: James Barrett / Steve Hardy (Oaks) 1 point, Stuart Cutler / Keith Bandolik (Elms) 2 points. We were riding high up 6 after 5 holes, straining to keep from laughing out loud. Keith was on fuego causing James and Steve to mention how they would have to leave right after golf ended. It was a gravy train with no scheduled stops. The 9th hole however foretold a wind shift. Strokes, birdies without strokes, even false hope that they could come all the way back permeated the atmosphere. They failed but didn't fall flat. We were supremely confident the day would be an Elms day. Strike up the band, hail the winners.

Match 2: Jeff Werstak / Tom Brya (Oaks) / Kurt Oelerich / Joe Bertoni (Elms) TIED 1 1/2 - 1 1/2. Never believe an election result before the mail - in ballots come in. We heard an Elms up 5 in passing at the 9th hole and could hardly keep from admiring the view from the top. Oops. A tale of 2 9's Oaks roared back to square it on 16 but then a stalemate on the final 2 holes. Like any strategist, uncertainty had crept into our subconscious.

Match 3: Bill Sholten / Clarke Gagliardi (Oaks) 2 1/2, Jon Kunkle / Chris Huchienski (Elms) 1/2. Ouch. Inflation had been replaced by dejection. We were confident Oak's recent history would cause a resumption of general failure in golf fundamentals, Bill and Clarke would have none of it. Chris, one of our rookies, has been a skin winning mainstay on the Thursday evening circuit and quietly circled to win several holes with his 19 hcp. Next time we're playing skins. JK had one of those days. No interviews granted but to be fair, none requested.

Match 4: Paul Manley / John McGowan (Oaks) 2 points, John Nyhan / Nate Johnson (Elms) 1 point. Shocker. Paul has been on and off, mostly on, IR this year. I didn't have to ask: two big bounces in front of the green to 15 feet. Couple of putts. Then the aw shucks. John was just as magnanimous. Sometimes the knife that isn't turned hurts more. Chops is anything but an easy out, and Nate is another rookie flush with

Thursday night riches. OUCH!

Match 5: Jim Burke (Oaks) 1 point / Patrick Wartan (Elms) 0 points, 9 holes, singles. No mas after 9? Freeing Jim up to roam the fairways in his cart was of course to us like sending an army into an ambush. We were happy to send him back to face a disaster. He kept his intelligence close to the vest as he chalked up the blue on the scoreboard.

Match 6: William Barasa / Chris Johnson (Oaks) 2 points, John Swierk / Frank Fernandez (Elms) 1 point. Some confusion on how the Nassau worked, didn't matter, Elms was lucky to get a point. Bill doesn't always need skins to perform, and Chris has yet to be laughed at now in his second year. Frank, another IR recovery project, is tough as nails when in form but thats likely still weeks from now.

Match 7: Jeremy Neisewander / Nigel Bell (Oaks) 2 points, Karl Behrend / John Martin (Elms) 1 point. On paper this had to bend slightly in Elms favor. Jeremy is having a good year and Nigel is like a day old caterpillar just getting started, but John has been a wrecking crew and Karl completely understands how to process a golf match. By the time they came in the only red was from the five dollar bets paid by Elms to Oaks in most cases.

We had hoped to play multiple games in this format this year but were displaced by interclub matches. Next year we'll get one of these in super early and another in the fall which should be less busy.

We still have the birdie challenge games for some on 9/13. A week later is our championships 9/20 - 9/21. October 4 is Rookies vs. Veterans. October 11 is the Classic shootout. The clubs are required to meet these challenges!

Our nation survived the Civil War. Elms continues on. You can lose a battle here and there and still win the war.

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