

BALLSTRIKER CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP 1ST ROUND FEATURED MATCH

(As observed and recorded by George Weekes 9/11/2010)

Here we are at Architect's getting ready for round one of the club championship. It's a flawless day...perfect for golf. Everyone's excited, pumped and ready to compete. Two golfers stand out as the favorites to win the club championship; Chaz Moses, the young gun and Melvin Knight. Other Ballstrikers who could be in the hunt are Curtis Atkinson, Jimmy Stoney and Bernie Williams. It was my good fortune on this glorious day to be included in a foursome with the two favorites, Chaz and Mel. Mel LuSane shares my good fortune and he and I observe with awe as the two "big boys" go about their business.

Hole 1 - 485 yard par 5

Chaz, sun glasses in place, hits a big drive down the left side of the fairway. His second shot is just short of the green. He chips to within 10 feet and drains the birdie putt. Mel hits his drive down the right side in the light rough. His second shot is 20 yards short of the green. He hits a poor pitch and then puts his 60 foot putt on the lip of the cup and taps in for par.

Hole 2 - 165 yard par 3 (uphill)

Chaz hits his tee shot on the green 40 feet short of the hole and on the lower level of the two tiered green. Unfortunately the hole is cut on the top tier. Mel puts his tee shot on the green 60 feet short of the hole. Mel leaves his putt 10 feet short but calmly sinks the 10 footer for par. Chaz charges his birdie put 8 feet pass the hole and two putts from there for bogey.

Hole 3 - 497 yard par 5 (downhill)

Mel has the honor and he puts his drive in the fairway bunker. Chaz splits the fairway with a blistering drive. Chaz is feelin' it; as he rides to his tee ball he lights up his first cigarillo and blows a few smoke rings. Mel escapes the fairway sand only to end up off the right side of the fairway with a wicked side hill lie. Chaz powers his second shot into the greenside trap and caps his "up and down" by sinking an 8 foot birdie putt. Mel navigates his third shot the 120 yards from the side hill lie to the green and two putts for par.

Hole 4 - 405 yard par 4 & Hole 5 - 335 yard par 4

Both Chaz and Mel make routine pars.

Hole 6 - 116 yard par 3 (down hill)

Chaz hits his tee ball to the front fringe. From there his putt to the front pin location burns the left edge of the cup and he taps in for par. Mel puts his tee ball on the back of the green and three putts from 60 feet.

Hole 7 - 375 yard par 4

Chaz cuts the corner of the dogleg with his drive and leaves himself a sand wedge to the elevated green. Mel puts his drive safely in the center of the fairway but comes up short with his approach to the green. Mel then chips onto the green with his third shot and inexplicably three putts for a double bogey. Chaz hits the green in two and two putts for par.

Hole 8 - 163 yard par 3 (up hill)

Both Chaz and Mel leave themselves lengthy birdie putts on the tricky 8th green. They both three putt for bogey. Mel, who is usually a deft putter, is starting to lose confidence in his short stick.

Hole 9 - 395 yard par 4

Chaz is on his second cigarillo. He again splits the fairway with a big drive. Mel puts his drive into the right rough. Both reach the green in two. Mel two putts for par. Chaz sinks an 18 footer for birdie.

Hole 10 - 348 yard par 4

Chaz hits a big drive (this big drive stuff is getting monotonous) down the right side of the fairway and has little more than a pitch shot to the green. Mel hits his drive close to the center of the fairway just short of the dogleg. Both Chaz and Mel hit the green with their second shots. Chaz two putts for par and Mel three putts for bogey.

Hole 11 - 500 yard par 5 (uphill then downhill)

Chaz hits his drive into the left rough. Mel's tee ball is short of Chaz but in the fairway. Mel lays up his second shot about 110 yards short of the green and pitches his third shot to within 8 feet of the cup. Chaz goes for the green with his second shot and ends up in the heavy rough left of the green. He hacks it out to the green but three putts for bogey. Mel's putter finally cooperates and he sinks his 8 footer for birdie.

Hole 12 - 159 yard par 3 (downhill)

Mel smothers the flag with his tee shot ending up 3 feet short of the cup. Chaz hits his tee shot into the deep greenside sandtrap and needs two swings to escape. He two putts for double bogey. Mel sinks his 3 footer for his second consecutive birdie. Mel is starting to feel real good about his game and his chances for a championship.

Hole 13 - 475 yard par 5

Mel puts his drive down the center of the fairway and positions his second shot in the fairway 110 yards from the green. Chaz hits another big drive down the right side of the fairway and goes for the green with his second shot, leaving it in the rough just right of the green. Mel hits the green in 3, but puts his ball on the lower level of the two level green. Mel needs three putts to negotiate the two levels and leaves the green with a frustrating bogey. Chaz chips his second shot well past the pin and two putts for par.

Hole 14 - 400 yard par 4

Chaz hits the green in regulation and two putts for par. Mel misses the green in two and fails to get up and down, recording a bogey.

Hole 15 - 405 yard par 4 (downhill)

Mel blasts his drive down the middle of the fairway. Chaz pushes his drive but manages to catch the right side of the fairway. Mel hits a long iron just missing the green short and left. Chaz powers a 6 iron 15 yards over the green. He recovers well past the pin and two putts for bogey. Mel chips to within gimme distance and taps in for par.

Hole 16 - 423 yard par 4 (downhill)

Chaz finally hits a bad drive, hooking it badly into the left side fairway bunker. Mel hits his drive in the fairway but comes up short of the green with his second shot. Chaz powers out of the fairway bunker over the green, then hits his chip 15 feet past the hole. Mel pitches onto the green and two putts for bogey. Chaz calmly sinks his 15 footer for a scrambling par punctuated with a Tiger-like fist pump.

Hole 17 - 171 yard par 3

Chaz leaves his tee shot short and in one of the many bunkers protecting the green. Mel bails left with his tee shot missing the green but also missing the greenside trouble. Chaz hits a pedestrian sand shot and two putts for bogey. Mel chips to within 15 feet and sinks the putt for a scrambling par.

Hole 18 - 355 yard par 4

Chaz's last drive of the round bisects the fairway; and long, very long. Mel pulls his drive left into the heavy rough but recovers nicely reaching the green in two. Mel then two putts for par. Chaz pitches his second shot from 50 yards to within two feet and taps in for birdie.