

THE DIMPLED ORB *DIGEST*

Volume XIX

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Exclusive Coverage of the Southern Pines Invitational



Features:

Taking the Turtle Global

The Templeton Cup

Yodeling Pickles

Mikey at the Tee *Redux*

Golf School, and much more . . .

It Really Yodels!

Not Your Father's Golf Trip

The Turtle Goes Global as
Mikey King Takes It

Greg Goddard Claims
the First Templeton Cup

Sunday, April 26, 2009. 1:31 PM EDT.

By Chuck Dumbass, Publisher
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SOUTHERN PINES, North Carolina (DOD) – In what can only be described as sweet vindication, Mike, “Big Boy, Jr.,” King overcame a five-point deficit today to claim the Terrapin Travelin’ Trophy in the 2009 Southern Pines Invitational. With his failure to win the Turtle in 2004 detailed in [excruciating verse](#) on the pages of this publication, King’s win today is doubly sweet. In winning the Turtle, King joins point champion Greg Goddard, the first ever winner of the Templeton Cup, described in greater detail *infra*. Featuring an expanded field of sixteen players and a website that takes The Turtle global, The Golf Trip has evolved from a friendly little match for chump change into a world-wide event. Truly, it is not your father’s Golf Trip anymore.



Charmin. When the rough just won't do.



Goddard and King claim their prizes.

Preparations for this year’s Invitational began in early January, with the application sent to Matt Ginella of Golf Digest to ambush The Golf Trip. Previous ambushees included three guys who took a [birthday golf trip to Pinehurst](#) (yes, *that* Pinehurst) *and couldn’t get anyone else to go with them*. They even took a golf lesson from Peggy Kirk Bell at the In the Rough Lounge at Pine Needles. And while Ms. Bell is a golfing icon, let’s face it, you have to wonder whether a golf trip that’s less than a foursome is really a golf trip at all.

There was also the Baroo Cup, described in the September issue of Golf Digest. The highlight of this one was a [video](#) of a bunch of guys imitating Judge Smalls talking to his putter. With trips like these as the competition, The Golf Trip seemed like a mortal lock for an ambush.



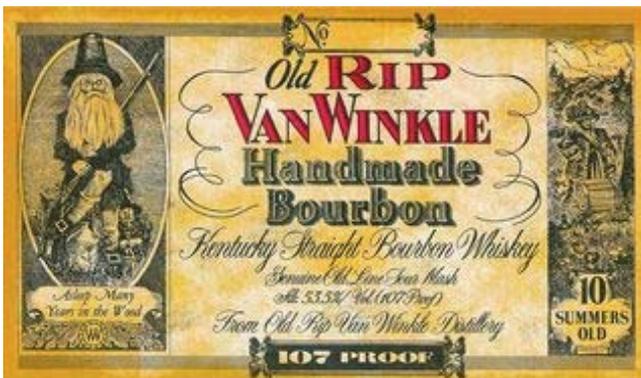


Second tee at Mid Pines--great weather!

It was not to be, though, as Ginella instead elected to ambush [Watson's Spring Fest](#) in upstate New York (in April), where it was thirty degrees and sleeting, with high winds throughout the weekend.

Meanwhile, The Golf Trip enjoyed perhaps the best weather in its history, with temperatures in the high 70's to mid 80's all four days. Although Ginella and Golf Digest proved they are not Turtle-worthy, Mikey King sure did with his closing day performance. More on that later, too.

In addition to the ambush application, this year's preparations saw the arrival, finally, of the Official Website of the Golf Trip at <http://www.dimpledorbn.net/>. Although the site was not online in time to influence the ambush decision, The Turtle is finally global.



The Orbsite evoked generally rave reviews from most, but the trip down memory lane brought to mind Mark “Q-Ball” Kimmet’s painful experience of being deprived of possession of The Turtle after his win in 2004. Kimmet learned first hand that possession of The Turtle is ephemeral at best. Even though his victory will live forever in the timeless classic, “[Mikey at the Tee](#),” Q-Ball was not awarded possession of the Terrapin due to arbitrary behavior on the part of Michael “the Calcutta Chairman” Wood. When reminded that the proper remedy would have been a *Writ of Turtle Capias*, Q-Ball challenged the Chairman to settle the matter mano-a-mano with clubs and wallets in Friday’s round.



Q-Ball challenged Wood mano-a-mano.

Last year’s tournament field included first-time players Goddard and Tracy “Manhole” Thompson, who had filled in for absent tour regulars Danny “Depot Stove” Pressley, and Norman “The Total Package” Templeton.

Templeton admires The Turtle.



Thompson and Goddard refused to leave this year, and previous participants Dennis “Wilford Brimley” McClane (back after a seven-year hiatus) and Michael “The Hoser” Moser wanted back in, along with Stove and the Package. They were added to the long-standing field of Greg “The Loguemeister” Logue; Dan “The Man” Moore; Toby “Hoss Cartwright” Hyke; King and his partner, Richard “The Envy” Matlock; Q-Ball; the Calcutta Chairman, and his partner Harvey “Papaw Jr.,” Abernethy; and Thompson’s partner, Monty “Piledriver” Walton.



Papaw Jr., and The Turtle.

And last but certainly not least was Randy “Cool Breeze” Gibson, who blew in once again as a late replacement for brother-in-law Jon “Hairball” Lawler as Q’s partner. The expanded sixteen-man field proved to be a nice addition to the competition.



Randy "Cool Breeze" Gibson

Tradition dictates that the festivities begin with the first Calcutta on the Monday before the Trip. Wood kicked off the event with the customary unison reading of *The Golf Trip Creed and Invitation*. He then began the auction by quoting Barney Frank, saying “Come on you thonth-of bitheth, I want to thee thome ththimuluth in thith Calcutta!” Wood’s exhortation seemed to work, as the pot grew to a record level, due mainly to the larger field. The smart money seemed to be on Logue, Templeton, and King--the latter with his ultra-low beginning quota.



Wood called for stimulus in the Calcutta.

Conspicuously absent from the first Calcutta was Logue, who had to attend to client business. Wood remarked that Logue not showing up for the first Calcutta was worse than Barack Obama missing his own inauguration. He mused that perhaps this is the new worst excuse for missing a Golf Trip event, surpassing the previous number One--having a tree fall on your house. King later pointed this out to Logue, who replied, “Hey, I only missed a Calcutta, not a whole Golf Trip. Besides, I don’t need some guy whose points are below the Mendoza line giving me a hard time about it.” That below-the-Mendoza-line beginning quota later proved to be quite beneficial to King.

“It’s hard to be nostalgic when you can’t remember anything.”---Pappy Van Winkle.

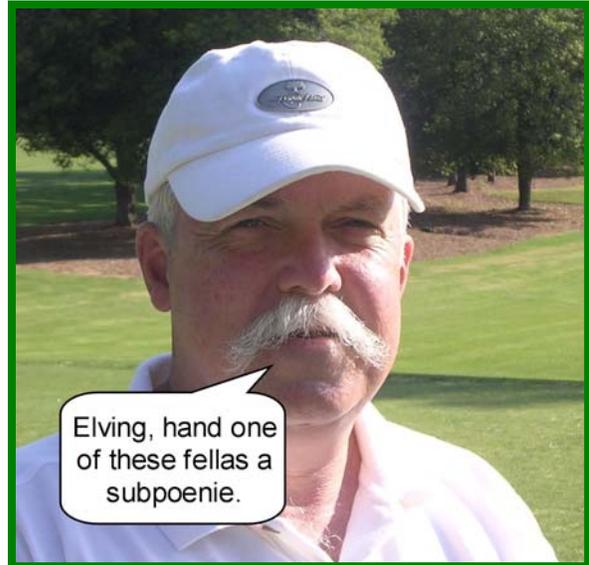
With the first Calcutta in the bag, the fellows headed to Southern Pines early Wednesday morning. The Wood contingent went all the way in and played their practice rounds at Pine Needles.



Silver Creek Six: Stovepipe, Package, Hoser, Depot, Brimley. Back: Logumeister.

The Logue group, including Depot, McClane, and the fruit of Depot's loins, Sam "Stovepipe," Pressley, played their Wednesday rounds in Morganton at the Silver Creek Golf Course.

Logue managed to display his advancing age to the fetching young lass in the snack bar, telling her to watch for a guy who looks like Wilford Brimley. Being under the age of thirty, she had no idea what he was talking about.



McClane's resemblance to Brimley baffled the Silver Creek staff.

recipes

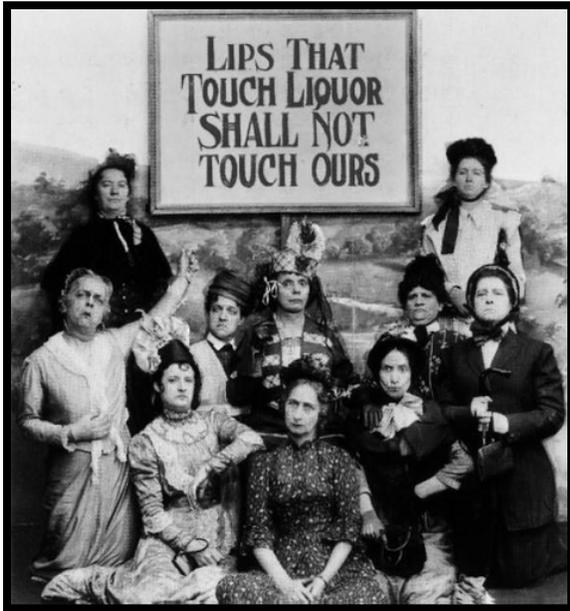
our story

nutrition & health

If you're on a low fat low cholesterol diet, add Quaker Oatmeal to it. Delicious whole grain foods like Quaker Oatmeal can actually reduce cholesterol. Quaker Oatmeal--It's the right thing to do.

*Serving Suggestion

The first day of the Invitational is usually played on Pine Needles. This year's tee times were bumped by a best ball event hosted by Wood's old nemesis, the North Carolina Association of Proctologists, against the Tennessee Temperance League. The Proctologists eventually won 2 up.



The Temperance League lost to the Proctologists.

With Pine Needles thus occupied, play began at Mid Pines. Despite fast conditions and impossible pin placements, Toby "Hoss Cartwright" Hyke shot to the early lead with a nice plus 4.



Hyke had the Day One lead.

Hyke was followed closely by the Stove at plus 2. Third place was occupied by three players at plus one—McClane, Moore, and King. Thompson's round featured a great par from the fringe on 18, followed by Templeton's birdie. Both players used those finishing flurries to end up at even.



Logue dinked one off a spectator on 6.

The round was highlighted by Logue's adventure on the sixth hole. While playing out of the fairway near the green, an errant tee shot from another group on 17 landed near his feet. Endeavoring to return the ball to its owner, Logue plunked a spectator who was sitting in a nearby cart. Due to Logue's size, the other fellow merely shouted a warm "Thank You!" and played on. Perhaps ruffled by the experience, Logue finished the day well back at minus 3, one ahead of playing partner Moser.





Depot and McClane took first place team on Day One.

Q-Ball had his share of fun on the sixth hole. From eighty yards out, he air mailed his approach over the green and eighty yards into the 16th fairway. From there, he skulled it back across the green to its original position. On the third try, he finally put it on the green. He followed that show with a tight shot on eight that resulted in a birdie. Despite the birdie, Kimmert also finished minus 3, along with partner Cool Breeze Gibson.

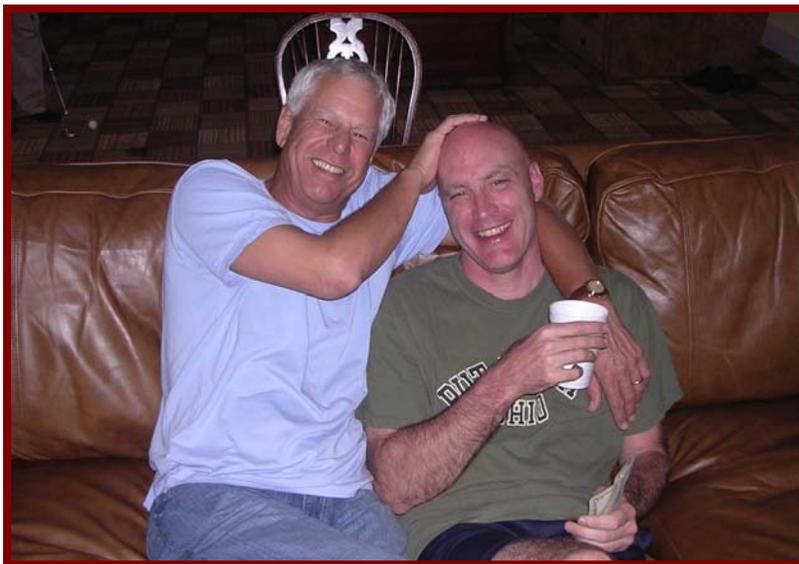
Wood, Abernethy, and Matlock all finished at minus 4. Matlock's poor performance on his favorite course may have been the result of the residual effects of attending the Masters two weeks earlier.

Co-defending champion Walton never solved the greens, and finished at minus 7, while Goddard brought up the rear at minus 8.

At dinner that evening, Wood was strangely melancholy. It may have been that he missed Jon Lawler, of whom he spoke wistfully. It may have been that having dinner in the terrace, necessitated by the Proctologist's party in the main dining room, increased his chagrin. Whatever the reason, Wood suggested suspending the Calcutta in favor of the prior day's purchases.



Matlock may have been fatigued by his Masters appearance.



Rubbing the Q-Ball for luck at the Calcutta.





Goddard starts Day Two on Pine Needles.

After a vote, it was determined to press ahead with the Calcutta, which Wood conducted dutifully. After a strong Day One performance, a high PPM, and with a well-known knack for Pine Needles, King brought the high bid from playing partner Matlock.

With the Proctologists on Mid Pines, Day Two's play commenced on Pine Needles. With its generous fairways and more forgiving greens, scoring promised to be better than Day One's.



King took top honors on Day Two.

Matlock's purchase of his partner proved prescient, as King carded a cool plus 5 to capture the win. Hyke duplicated his Day One score at plus 4, forging a three way tie for second on the day with Logue and McClane. Moser and Templeton posted

plus 3's on the day. Pressley turned in another plus 2 to get to plus 4 in the overall.

Thus, at the mid-way point of the tournament, Hyke had control of the Leaderboard at plus 8. Hoss was followed closely by King at 6, McClane at 5, Pressley at 4, Templeton at 3, with the rest of the field still in pursuit.



Piledriver awards a pin to Hoss.

Dinner that evening was in the historic Cosgroves Lounge of the Mid Pines Inn, as the Proctologists continued to occupy the main dining room. This environment induced Wood to wax rhapsodically on the effects of leafy vegetables on his lower digestive tract, much to the amusement of his dining partners.

Repairing to the Long Leaf following dinner, Templeton made an historic announcement in the form of the institution of the Bud Templeton Memorial Trophy.

This trophy, named in honor of Norm's Father, is to be awarded henceforth to the golfer who accumulates the highest number of total points during the Southern Pines Invitational each year. The full text of Templeton's remarks are reproduced in the insert.

REMARKS BY NORMAN TEMPLETON ON THE INSTITUTION OF THE BUD TEMPLETON MEMORIAL TROPHY

April 24, 2009

I have an announcement to make. Some of you know that the reason I was unable to go on the Golf Trip last year was because my Dad passed away in April shortly before the Trip. He battled colon cancer for 18 months before it defeated him last April. My Dad was a very good amateur golfer, and was a scratch golfer my entire life. My Dad taught me to play golf when I was about six years old, and instilled in me the love of four things--God, my mother, all things UT, particularly Tennessee football, and the game of golf.



The name “Templeton” is Scottish—it literally means “Of the Temple Town,” and the Templetons all hail from the Ayrshire region of Scotland. The Templetons are of the line of the Knights Templar, who settled in Ayrshire, whose duty it was to protect and preserve the traditions and relics of the Christian Church from all enemies, particularly the Muslim invaders who overtook the Holy Land in the Middle Ages.



I’m going to ask you to put a mental bookmark in my story right here—I’ll explain why later.

After my Father passed away, I was going through his personal effects and found this Claret Jug. There was a note attached to it from my father informing me that it is the responsibility of our particular branch of the Templetons to preserve this Claret Jug from antiquity, but also telling me to put the Jug to good use, preferably golf-related. After all, the trophy awarded to the winner of the Open Championship is a Claret Jug, which was modeled after this very chalice. Therefore, in keeping with my Father’s wishes, I have a special announcement to make.



But first, I want to say that I recognize that The Turtle is the most prestigious award in golf, nay in all of sport. And while the winner of The Turtle is a deserving champion, it is a fact that the lower handicap golfers have been (so far) unable to break through and win The Turtle due to the extraordinary difficulty in exceeding the higher quota that necessarily accompanies the golfer with the highest skill (such as Messrs. Goddard, Tracy, Harvey, Depot and the like).

Therefore, I hereby announce that in order to reward the golfer with the greatest overall skill, from henceforth, this Claret Jug Trophy shall be awarded to the golfer who accumulates the highest number of total points during this Competition each year, who will bear the title of “Total Points Champion Golfer.” I have taken the liberty of having this ancient relic engraved for this purpose and have further taken the liberty of naming the Trophy the “Bud Templeton Memorial Trophy” in honor of my father. The Trophy reads:

Bud Templeton Memorial Trophy
Mid Pines and Pine Needles Golf Club
Total Points Champion Golfer
The Golf Trip
Southern Pines Invitational
Southern Pines, North Carolina

The award of this Trophy is not to in any manner diminish the import of the award of The Turtle and all that it signifies. The awarding of this Trophy is simply intended to reward a different accomplishment in this competition. Finally, let me say that in presenting this Trophy annually to the Total Points Champion Golfer, I feel that not only am I fulfilling my Dad’s wishes, I am also putting into practice his favorite Latin phrase, which is: *Putatis consentis rel victos nobilis patre generis et humos magnus*. This phrase, loosely translated means: “If you can’t win their trophy son, create your own!”

In closing, let me ask, do you remember the mental bookmark I asked you to place in this presentation? The reason for it is that all the things that I said up to that point are the absolute unvarnished truth. However, I cannot guarantee the veracity of anything I said after that point, as such information may have been slightly embellished and/or totally made up. Thank you for your attention.



The evening's Calcutta featured high bidding interest in Abernethy, who seemed due, and King, whose game appeared to be rounding into form.



McClane sizzled on Moving Day.

Day Three (you know, Moving Day) at Pine Needles saw huge movements by several players. McClane started his round with a birdie and never looked back on the way to a 25-point plus-eight round. This was by far his best one-day total ever on The Golf Trip. Normally a round of that stature easily would have captured the win on the day, but on this day it wasn't enough. Randy Cool Breeze Gibson also carded a plus 8, aided in large measure by a 10-point hole-in-one on the 16th. Using a 6 iron from 162 yards away, Gibson landed the ball softly on the green, where it went into the hole like it had eyes. Everyone in Gibson's group was thrilled to be a part of the only hole-in-one ever recorded on The Golf Trip.



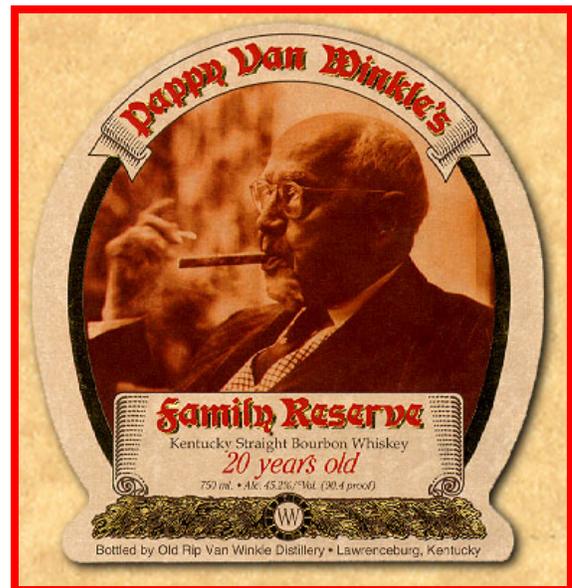
Randy "Cool Breeze" Gibson.



Moser outdualed Abernethy on the back nine.

As good as those plus-eights were, they weren't enough to overcome Hoser Moser, who turned in the round of the day with a fabulous plus 9. In so doing, he outlasted Papaw Abernethy, who carded a strong plus 7. Playing in the first group, the two dueled all day until Moser finally pulled away on the last two holes.

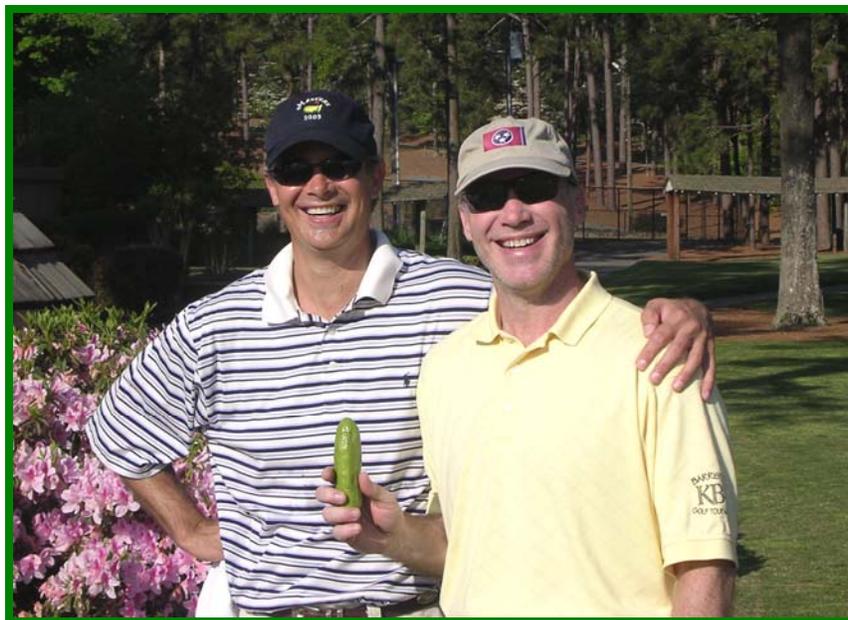
It is not often that a plus 7 isn't in the money, but that's the fate that befell Harvey on this very strong scoring day. In all, 12 of the 16 players were plus one or better, resulting in a total plus 42 on the day for the entire field. Compared to the -31 turned in by the field on Day One, it is clear that scoring conditions were extremely good.





Piledriver was proud of his Pickle.

Saturday's round at Pine Needles also featured a rare glimpse of Piledriver's new favorite toy, the incomparable Yodeling Pickle. The Pickle proved to be difficult to photograph, as its [yodeling](#) elicited so much laughter from the photographer that it was difficult to hold the camera steady. Appreciative of all things whimsical, Walton could not have been prouder of his Pickle. He and his partner Thompson had a joyous time together with the Pickle all weekend in the private quarters of the Short Leaf villa. Said Thompson, "That yodel gets inside your head, man."



Left to right: Thompson, Pickle, Walton.

[Editor's Note: Sadly, the Pickle was a casualty of Piledriver's occasional fecklessness. Walton lost it following Sunday's round by leaving it in his golf cart. When he went to retrieve it, he learned the Pickle evidently had been purloined by a member of the staff, who feigned ignorance of it, and acted as if Walton was crazy for asking about a pickle that yodels.]

McClane's strong Day Three round staked him to a formidable lead at plus 13. Moser's round got him back into the hunt at plus 8, tied with Moore, who was plus 6 on the day, and King, who was plus 2 on the day. Lurking at plus 7 overall were Gibson and Hyke, who fell off the pace a little with a minus 1. Another shot back at plus 6 were Templeton who turned in a neat plus 3, and Logue, with a strong plus 5 on Day Three. None of the other players was above plus 3 overall. Still anyone's game, but it looked as though McClane's return to The Trip might be rewarded with a Turtle.

With the Proctologists finally out of the way, that night's dinner was back in the main dining room. This seemed to buoy Wood's spirits, as he conducted the final Calcutta with vigor. The pairings for the final round set up nicely, with King, Moore, and Templeton in the next to last group, and third-round leader McClane and Moser in the final group. Feeling bullet proof off his strong Day Three performance, Moser vowed to "run you down, McClane." Evidently the rest of the group shared that view, as Moser was the Calcutta favorite. King drew mild interest, but was considered a dark horse.

The quest for the first Templeton Cup was shaping up as a three-man race among Thompson, Goddard, and Templeton. Thompson looked strong with a five point lead over Goddard. With Moser and Pressley both nine back, they looked to be out of the hunt.



Turtle contenders: McClane, Moser, Moore, King.

Everyone who has ever vied for the Turtle knows it is a heavy burden. As play opened at Mid Pines on Day Four, McClane began to feel its weight. And despite his vow to run McClane down, Moser was feeling the pressure, too. McClane and Moser recognized they would be in for a long day on the first hole, where they both had three-putt bogies. When McClane, playing on a quota of 19, had only 4 points at the turn, it looked like he had lost the commanding lead with which he had started the day. It was clear he would have to play unconscious golf on the back nine just to make his quota. Moser looked like he would make good on his vow, with 13 points against a quota of 23 after just nine holes.

Playing under the radar in the third group with a quota of 11, King was steadily

moving up the Leaderboard. After nearly making eagle on five and settling for a birdie, it appeared King had something going. He had 6 points by the turn and had overtaken McClane. It was then that he began his drive for The Turtle. Pointing on every hole on the back nine except eighteen, including a tough par on 12, King had his quota by the 14th hole. He continued to press ahead with a bogie at 15. He sealed the deal with a snaking par putt on 16 that put him at plus 4 on the day. Closing out with a bogie on 17, King was the leader in the clubhouse with an overall net of plus 13.

The final-group dual for The Turtle just never materialized. While McClane played the last nine better than the front, his 8 points on the back could get him only to 12 on the day, 7 off his quota.

Moser, who looked at the turn like he might take The Turtle, could manage only 8 points on the back to finish the day at minus 2. In fact, The Hoser did finally catch McClane and would have beaten him under the new tie-breaker rule. But with King and three other players turning in better final rounds, the best Moser could manage was a tie for fourth with McClane and Logue.



King eyes Matlock's tee shot on 8.



King closed strong to take The Turtle.

Meanwhile Templeton played hard in the third group with King, trying to catch King for The Turtle and Thompson for the Templeton Cup. He nearly pulled off the double, finishing with 28 points at plus 4 on the day to card a four-day total of plus 10, good for second in The Turtle hunt. The Package also challenged for the Cup, as Thompson faltered to 24 points on the day to wind up with a total point output of 104,

three ahead of Templeton's 101. The Cup went to Greg Goddard, though, as his stellar 30-point closing round put him at a total of 105, just enough to edge Thompson by one. Suffering from the effects of a ribbing for his Day Four performance, Thompson offered sheets of paper to his tormentors so they could inflict paper cuts on him.

As for Mikey King, his strong closing nine to capture The Turtle vindicates his 2004 collapse to Mark Kimmet. As recompense for *Mikey at the Tee*, the epic that so colorfully documented that day, and as a tribute to Big Boy's perseverance and fortitude in this year's competition, we give you Mikey at the Tee, *Redux*, viz:

Azaleas are Red,

Rhododendrons are Blue,

Mikey's Won The Turtle,

[Yodel-Ay-Eee-Ooo!](#)



Yodeling Pickle

Are you tired of trying to convince a jar of pickles to yodel using melodious mind bullets and sheer force of will? So were we. At last, the Electronic Yodeling Pickle that you have always hoped for! Each 6-1/2" (16.5 cm) long plastic pickle yodels its little heart out at the push of a button. Batteries included. Illustrated Window Box. Item No. 11761. \$12.95 ea.

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"Couldn't have done it without him." Dan Moore, 2008 Southern Pines Invitational.

"Moved my game to a different level." Dennis McClane, 2009 Southern Pines Invitational.

