

❖ The Cruze Chronicle ❖

Double Digit Distribution

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Art's reign continues

Next Year's Tournament News

The weather on Saturday was "picture perfect." We couldn't have asked for more than the sunny skies and a light breeze that we were given. Everyone expected to play their best game in years.

Sunday's weather, however, was expected to be very bad—perhaps bad enough to cancel the game. Everyone figured they had one shot at the tournament and that was on Saturday.

Art won Saturday's tournament with about three strokes to spare. Desperate for a second chance, everyone else was pretty well fired up to play again on Sunday, no matter what.

As you know, we play in the rain, not in lightening. Well, after Saturday's game, Art began promoting the idea that Sunday was already a washout and the tournament was over. This time, no one argued very much because we all knew that Sunday's weather forecast looked really bad.

Art reluctantly agreed to get up at 5:30 and check the weather report on the internet. And as expected, the weather at 5:30 looked really bad for the tournament. Art showed everyone the massive amount of "red" and "yellow" heading right towards Willmar. It looked bad for Sunday's game.

Tony called from Willmar at about 5:45 and said he was on his way out to the course to see what could be done.

Art cautioned him to watch for sudden rising water and to at least bring along



Most of Sunday's players

some hip boots. Then he promptly declared the tournament over and said he was going back to bed and no one was to wake him up until at least 9:00.

Tony called again at 8:30 to say that most of the clouds were gone and that clear skies were actually coming in from the West. Tony had already secured tee times for us and said that we could tee off as soon as we got there.

Everyone dressed quickly and hit the road. At times we had to drive through heavy rain but always with the expectation that the rain would at least slow down by the time we had to tee off.

In short, the weather cleared up. The course was wet and the air humid, but everyone was happy to have that second chance.

Everyone played on Sunday with enthusiasm, but only Greg and Pat

Greg has agreed to host the tournament next year. In 2004, the tournament will be held at River Oaks in Cold Spring.

The tournament is already scheduled for the weekend of July 17th and 18th. Greg has already reserved 6 tee times starting at 10:00 (that's in the morning for those who have trouble getting up early).

The course is fairly wide open. Watch for further announcements in the Spring edition of the Cruze Chronicle.

CNN



We changed the name embroidered on the cap to "Cruze Family Golf Champion '03."

It seems more to the point that the wearer is truly the family champion and not just someone who played in the tournament.

Thanks for the suggestion Art.

News on the back stroke



John and Tony argued about who could hit their ball farther out of bounds.

Ever wish for a quiet “do over”?

If you have to make a mistake, never do it in front of the Cruze crowd. Erik found out why, the hard way.

Erik was just off the 18th fairway, about 30 yards from the green and needed to chip up to the green. He had a fairly wide open shot except for a small 2” wooden stake a little ways in front of him. When he hit the ball, he hit the stake dead on — **WHACK!** It was loud enough that no one within 500 feet could have missed it. Well, the Cruze clan sure didn’t miss it because they erupted with both cheers and laughter. Then to add injury to insult, Erik had to make the same shot again because his ball landed behind him. This time everyone was watching.

He said he was glad when the hole was over and hoped everyone would soon forget. (Naaaaaah, I don’t think so.) AFV



I told them to “just act natural.” So Greg started talking and Pat promptly fell asleep.

A special thanks to both Tony and Sharon!

Sharon and Tony had to host two dinners this year. The first dinner started when the tournament was over at noon. 14 guys hovered around the kitchen looking for something to eat. Once satisfied, they continued to hang around talking, snacking, watching tv, playing games, and waiting for the second dinner (supper) to begin.

In addition to the dinners, Sharon coordinated a trip to a play that evening for several women.

2003

Player Standings:

1. Art
2. Greg
3. Pat
4. Roger
5. John
6. Shawn
7. Brian
8. Derrick
9. Alex
10. Paul
11. Tony
12. Erik
13. Jake
14. Rick

It couldn’t have been any closer!

This year’s tournament almost was the most expensive Art’s ever played in. In addition to the green fees, it almost cost him several hundred dollars and considerable embarrassment.

It all happened on the short “par 3” 16th hole where a lot of people have “choked”. You see, there’s a road on the left, trees on the right, water about two thirds of the way to the green, and sand bunkers in front of the green. That leaves only a small area into which you can hit the ball without incurring some kind of penalty.

On Sunday, as Art was getting ready to swing, a red Lincoln Continental began heading down the road toward the clubhouse. It was one of those times when it would have been better to just back off for a moment and then reapproach the ball.

For some reason Art decided to swing anyway. Guess what! He hooked the ball (sent it toward the left where the road is). It was a long, high ball and it headed right at the Lincoln. Initially, it looked like he was going to be okay because the ball was going to hit behind the car. But, that’s when the Lincoln slowed down!

For the next few seconds no one breathed. One observer noted that the ball hit so close to the car, that had the car had another coat of paint Art would have had to talk to its owner. Whew!

Special note on our tie breaker rules:

This year we instituted a tie breaking process. If two or more players come in with the same score, the following tie breaker process is used to rank them. If two or more tie for the lowest score, then it’s used to determine the winner of the tournament.

Whoever had the lowest score on the #1 handicap hole wins the tie breaker. If both tied on the #1 handicap hole, then we look at the #2 handicap hole—and so on, until there’s a winner.

A "good" golf partner is one who is slightly worse than you.



Here's the 11th green

Only God knows how many balls have been lost on this hole.



What it's like when the guys pay more attention to themselves than to the women in their lives.



All tucked out.



Saturday's players



Megan flashes her famous smile.



It's always interesting to note who's first in the food line.

Ever notice that it's easier to get up at 6:00 to golf than to get up at 10:00 to mow?



Apparently, there wasn't enough competition in the golf tournament.