

On a pleasant day at Cherry Island golf course, the teams of Ronnie and Winton faced off against Jose and Josh. Expectations were high for R/W as they tried to advance once again to the finals of this elusive championship. Standing in their way was, of course, the formidable pairing of Jose and Josh, a strategic combination of power, accuracy, and pops! As it turned out, it was a very steady tightly fought match all the way thru, with no lead greater than 2, with one team never having the lead, and another never trailing.

The setup:

All played from tees (blues). Jose 0 pops, Winton 3, Ronnie 6, Josh 13. Played ball down.

Par 5 1st, Jose makes par from 40yds right with a blind and tricky up and down. But Winton bests the par with tap in birdie, just missing 40ft eagle putt. R/W 1up.

No blood on par4 2nd. Despite drives finding tree trouble, W and Jose recover and make pars along with Ronnie, using more conventional route of fairway to green.

Par4 3rd no blood. Despite good drives, and R/W/Josh popping, R/W cannot add to lead managing only net pars to match Josh's net par and Jose's 4.

Par3 4th. Josh only one to make par bringing match all square.

Par 4 5th. Josh and W good drives. Jose in left hazard, Ronnie in sand. W knocks approach to five feet of front pin, Josh pushes his pin high right. His skillful chip rolls to 3ft, which he makes for his net birdie(ugh!). Little more pressure added as Winton sinks his birdie to tie hole.

Par5 6th. Jose booms drive down middle with wind. W hits his down right side but in play. R/Josh in left hazard. Jose's second shot settles pin high right 25ft away for possible eagle. W tries to keep up, but can only get on in reg with 30footer for birdie. W makes birdie giving Jose a little bit more to think about. Jose just misses eagle, settles for tap in birdie. All square.

Par4 7th. Treacherous hole and small momentum shift! Josh's drive leaks right but stays in play, Jose down middle with iron, Ronnie's settles near left chain link OB fence (forcing him to play a lefty shot), and W's sails downs right side but trickles into lake. Advantage J/J, but Josh hits two into lake and Jose pushes his approach pin high right but against tall weeds and near tree branches. Can only manage a 6 from there. W lands approach in right fringe and makes up and down for net par. R/W up 1.

Par 3 8th. Jose and Winton match pars. No blood.

Par5 9th. Snake hole curves right then left. Ronnie's finds inspiration as he almost jars his approach. Makes his two-inch putt for net eagle. R/W up 2 at turn.

Long 220yd par3 10th. Josh and W par.

Par4 11th. R/W/Josh popping. Didn't matter. Those double bogeys can't match Jose's 15footer for par. J/J take one back. Only down 1.

Par5 12th. Ronnie and Josh pop. Tricky left curving hole around big hazard. R/W/Josh safe drives. Jose pulls his left but hits tree and lands safe yet still 230 from green. The brave soul goes for it, but catches leaves and lands in chasm. R/W on reg. Josh, near next tee, and in lettuce lie, makes another

timely chip to within 17ft of cup. R/W licking chops... but Josh drains another net birdie(ugh!) to tie Ronnie. No blood.

Par 3 13th. Big turning point. R/J/J all on green. Ronnie, last to putt, has big left-to-right, twisty, slippery 20 footer for birdie. J/J each miss theirs. Ronnie trickles his into the cup. R/W back up 2.

Par5 14th. R/W momentum carries on as R and Jose match pars.

Par4 15th. Jose stops momentum cold by sinking 15ft birdie. W tries to match it from 12ft, but burns edge. J/J only down 1.

*Par3 16th. J/J tee shots find sand and edge of hazard. W on green, R pin high right rough. J/J can only manage bogeys. R/W pars put them back up 2.
Dormi.*

Par4 17th. The match ended with a bit of a fizzle. Tee shots were a little scattered. No one found green in reg. And bogey was good enough to seal the match. R/W win 2 & 1.

It was a very fun match and we enjoyed the banter back and forth throughout the day with J/J. Looking forward to the finals.

Winton