

Chad played the white tees. Dave, Tom and Randy played the white/red combo tees. They all agreed to winter rules, a 3-putt max, the putt-off-tie-breaker. Dave was low handicap. Chad got 3 strokes. Tom and Randy both got 2.

Hole 1. Chad crushed his drive, hit a GIR, and 2-putted for a par to win #1. Randy came back to even the match with an up-and-down 1-putt par on #2. Randy and Dave pushed #3 with GIR pars. Chad and Dave both parred #4 to go +1. On hole #5, the #3 HC hole, Chad was the only one popping. After the second shots, only Tom and Chad had makeable birdie putts. Tom cans his 20-footer for birdie. Chad leaves his 15' putt in the jaws one roll short. Dave and Chad remain +1. Hole #6. #1 HC hole, so all were popping except Dave. Into a brisk 1-club wind, Randy sticks his approach to 15' and wins the hole with a 2-putt par. Match All Square. Hole 7, Par 5. It's 2 against 1 as Chad hit his drive OB. Dave, Tom and Randy all have GIR birdie putts. Dave makes his 6-footer for par, and Randy misses his 5' birdie. Match AS. Hole 8, Par 3. Randy hits the GIR leaving 20-feet for birdie. Dave chips up to gimme range from 20 yards for par. Randy 2-putts for par. Match AS. Hole 9, Par 4. Chad only player to hit GIR. Randy makes 8-foot par putt to push Chad's GIR Par. Match AS at the turn.

Tom only player to hit GIR on #10, but it's 70-feet away and 3-putt range. Dave makes a slippery 12-footer for par to win the hole. Dave and Chad +1. Hole #11, Par 5. Randy chips up to 10-feet for birdie and his 2-putt par wins the hole. Match AS. On the Par 3 12th, Tom and Dave both 2-putt for pars. Match AS. Chad, missing in action for a few holes, comes back with a roar on #13 with a GIR par to retake the lead and go +1 with 5 to go. The difficult 14th was pushed with 4 bogies. The Par 5 15th was pivotal. Dave hit his 3rd shot to within 8 feet for bird. Everyone had birdie putts, but nobody converted, not even Dave, so the hole was pushed. Dave and Chad +1 with 3. Hole #16, Par 3. Tom hits a great shot to about 20-feet. Randy launched his best shot of the day. With Tom yelling "get in the hole" with the ball in the air, the ball lands 2 feet right of the hole, bounces slightly left and stops 18" away. Tom then drains his 20-footer for bird, taking the pressure off Randy's near-gimme birdie. Match AS. With everyone popping on Hole 17 (except Dave), Tom made a great chip for a gimme bogie, net Par, and Chad just missed his 15-foot par putt for the win. Match AS. Hole 18, Par 3. Chad, feeling the pressure, hits his shot into the hazard. Tom hits a GIR to about 20'. Randy hits a GIR to about 12'. Dave hits a GIR to 6', the best of the bunch. Tom misses his birdie putt. Randy misses his birdie putt. It's now, up to Dave, to win the match. After considerable debate between Dave and himself, he pulls the putt left and the teams are off to the Putt-off Tie-Breaker.

Randy and Tom choose the putt. It's about 70'. All downhill. Randy nearly hits the stick but it rolls 15' past the hole. Tom nearly holes his putt, but it rolls 6' beyond the stick. Both Chad and Dave, having seen how fast it is, leave their putts about 10 and 12 feet short. Randy misses his 2nd putt. Dave and Chad miss their 2nd putt. It's now up to Tom, with a straight, uphill putt to win the match and.....he drains it. The 2nd time in as many matches that Tom has won the Putt-off-Tie-Breaker at Empire Ranch. Amazing. Truly an awesome match, amongst great friends, with some epic trash talk sprinkled in throughout the day.