

CCGC 2PBB Recap
Venturi/Venturi vs Lesniak/Emmett
July 1, 2024

On a day whose temperature spiked up to 105 degrees, four soldiers forged ahead with 14 others on Monday to suffer the wrath of a scorched sun-baked earth at Empire Ranch.

Ronnie and Winton (R/W) faced off against Mike and Pam Venturi in their match. R/W played blue tees, Mike white/red combo, and Pam red. Ronnie got 2 pops, Mike 9, and Pam 21. It turns out, this was a whoopsydaisy for R/W cuz we forgot to apply the 90% rule. Yikes... and Whew! R still would've gotten 2 pops, but M/P would have gotten a few less. Thankfully, it ended up not affecting the outcome of the match.

R/W were determined to get off to a hot start and build a lead. On the par-4 1st, 1 they fended off Pam's first of three double pop holes. M/P struggled out of the gate, each with a triple, allowing Ronnie's smooth 2-putt par to put R/W 1up.

Winton's tee shot on par-3 2nd left him with 15ft for birdie, but a burnt edge gave him par. M/P each managed net pars to halve hole.

Wind hurting on par-5 3rd. Ronnie in left fairway trap. W down middle. W goes for it and hooks it hard into left water. R on green with 12 ft for birdie. Pam, pin high right in three, almost buries her natural birdie from fringe, but still makes net bird. R sinks birdie putt for a halved hole.

R/W's hot start continues winning next three holes with pars on 4, W a bell-ringer birdie on 5, and R a net birdie on 6 which foiled Pam's net par, and the second of her double-pop holes. R/W up 4 after 6.

Mike kicks it in gear with net birdie on 7, and then drops a bomb of a birdie on par-3 8th from 40ft. R/W up 2.

No blood on 9 leaves R/W up 2 at turn.

R/W, hoping to extend lead, fire two good drives on par-4 10th. Mike says not so fast. He pops drive up, but his approach makes it pin high left rough. He chips to 5 ft and makes his net birdie. R/W can only manage par. Uh-oh... Mike starting to find good stride. R/W up 1, but momentum shifting to M/P having won last 3 of 4 holes, even with Pam using the last of her double-pop holes on 10.

Winton stops that momentum in its tracks by sizzling his 3wood approach on par-5 11th to within 20 ft for eagle. Makes birdie to go back up 2.

Pam takes it right back with net birdie on par-3 12th. Uh-oh... that's all we need is for one hot putter to be joined by his wife.

On par-4 13th, Ronnie tattoos his 200yd approach to within 30 ft. We think we've got the hole won, but then Mike eases another longish putt (25-footer) to secure par, putting pressure on Ronnie to finish his remaining 4footer... which he confidently does to halve hole.

Amazing Mike continues to be amazing on par-4 14th. His first two shots leave him still 40 yds from pin. Mike studies his upcoming chip (and boy does he really study it), and it pays off big time! R/W watch in despair as the final rotation of Mike's ball drops it in the cup for a net eagle! Of course, we start humming to ourselves that tune from the 80s Michael Jordan Gatorade commercial to "Be Like Mike" hoping his magic rubs off on us! Match all square!

It's crunch time! Par-5 15th. Pam struggles. R, W, M all get to 130yds out in 2. M puts his in front right bunker, R on green but 50 left of back pin, W to within 12 ft. W secures bird to win hole. R/W 1up.

Par-3 16th. Hurting wind. Only Pam pops. Ronnie sticks tee shot within 7ft past front pin. Makes par to match Pam's net par.

Par-4 17th. Ronnie's other pop hole! Bad start as R/W's drives flare way right and find the 11th fairway. Each approach is short, but get on in 3. M/P each on in 4. Pam two-putts for 6. Expecting heroics from Mike. His 20 footer comes up short. Ronnie can two-putt from 15 ft to win match. But he puts it away with one putt for a net birdie and an exclamation point. R/W win 2 and 1.

Thanks to Mike and Pam for a very fun match. It could have gone either way but for a few made and missed putts. Enjoyed it!

Winton