

Tournament Recaps—Coldwater and Legend at Arrowhead

The last two weeks saw another pair of west side stops on our spring schedule, first at Coldwater and then Legend at Arrowhead. The former included the final week of the round-robin phase of the Match Play tournament, the latter the first week of the Final Four in each of the two brackets.

The stat summary is below. Here are some of the highlights:

- Hunter Townsend added his name to the list of players with a sub-par round in the current SGL season by posting a 1-under 71 at Coldwater.
- Bryan Nelson scored the low net at Coldwater with a 67, then matched the feat with another net 67 at Arrowhead. The first one was in Flight 4, the second in Flight 3. And they were very timely for him in the midst of the Match Play tournament.
- Trevor Hillman's field best 4 birdies at Coldwater represented the second straight week he led that category with that number.
- Murray Nelson became the first player since we changed the Skins format a little over a year ago to earn three Gross Skins in the same round, doing so with birdies on the 4th, 12th and 16th holes at Coldwater
- On Coldwater's par-3 5th hole, it was deemed impossible to determine whose tee shot was closer between Bo Montgomery and Ken Slagle, therefore they split the \$50 prize.
- There were two eagles at Legend at Arrowhead. Amy Arnold posted a 3 on the par-5 6th. Dan Gallegos made one of the rare par-4 variety on the 334-yard 1st hole. Dan hit a 3-wood to about 100 yards, then a wedge into the green. The ball landed at the front of the top tier, bounced twice, then rolled out into the hole. Of the eighteen eagles in league play this season, Dan's is the first to go on the scorecard as a 2.

	Coldwater	Legend at Arrowhead
Players	60	43
Field Avg Gross	87.9	92.2
Field Avg Net	75.9	78.5
Low Gross	Bill Townsend (71)	Steve Hulka (75)
Low Net	Bryan Nelson (67)	Bryan Nelson (67)
Eagles		Dan Gallegos (1st), Amy Arnold (6th)
Total Birdies / Players / Holes	47 / 29 / 15	28 / 19 / 10
Most Birdies	Trevor Hillman (4)	Amy Arnold (4)
Hardest Hole	#12, par-4, +1.42	#7, par-4, +0.37
Easiest Hole	#5, par-4, +1.70	#11, par-4, +0.58
Flight 1 Winner	Bo Montgomery (75/71)	Steve Hulka (75/72)
Flight 2 Winner	Murray Nelson (74/68)	Robert Krass (82/72)
Flight 3 Winner	Bill Novak (81/70)	Bryan Nelson (84/67)
Flight 4 Winner	Bryan Nelson (85/67)	Richard Carroll (93/69)
Callaway Winner	Bill Townsend (71/70)	Grant Swan (82/73)
Gross Skins	Murray Nelson (3)	Bryan Nelson, Charles Falcone (1)
Net Skins	Five players (1)	Five players (1)
Low Putts	Jeff Thursam, Trevor Hillman (25)	Robert Krass (27)
CTPs	Bo Montgomery/Ken Slagle (tie), Dan Gallegos, Justin Szela, Derek Schwertley	Paul Kelleher, Murray Nelson, Tom Hegna, Amy Arnold
Deuces	Trevor Hillman (2), Justin Szela (2), plus 10 others	Amy Arnold (2), Robert Krass, Paul Kelleher, Tom Hegna, Dan Gallegos, Trevor Hillman
Top Money Winner	Bryan Nelson (\$121)	Amy Arnold (\$80)

Match Play Round-Robin Complete

Coldwater hosted the final week of round-robin play in the 2020-21 Individual Match Play tournament, and there was plenty of drama, including:

- In the Smails Group, wins by Bo and Murray resulted in them being part of three players tying with 2-1 records, with Steve Hulka as the third. It was Steve who emerged from a three-way putt-off to advance to the finals.
- In the Czervik Group, scheduling issues caused a delay in the completion of the round-robin. Once the makeup match took place mid-week, it left Tom Hegna and Justin Szela tied and forced their putt-off to happen immediately before the Legend round. Justin emerged victorious and moved on.
- In the Noonan Group, Trevor Hillman rallied from 3-down with four holes to play against Lee Steelgrave to forge a tie after 17 holes, then held on to that tie on the 18th hole to edge out Lee by ½ point in the standings and advance to the Final Four.
- After defeating Mike Tobin, Ben Goodwin advanced from the Webb Group when Oscar Delgado hit a 7-iron onto the green from deep in the ravine on Coldwater's 15th hole to set up a par and tie his match with Jeff Coughran after losing a 4-up with 6 to go lead. Had Jeff won, he and Ben would have gone to a putt-off.
- The others to advance were Dave Dean in the Spackler Group, Al Palange in the Spaulding Group, Bryan Nelson in the Bishop Group and Ron Sweat in the D'Annunzio Group. Ron and Bryan finished 3-0 in their respective groups.

Lower Handicap Tournament			
SMAILS GROUP	W	L	T
Steve Hulka	2	1	0
Bo Montgomery	2	1	0
Murray Nelson	2	1	0
Ken Slagle	0	3	0

Week 3 matches:	Montgomery def. Hulka, 4 and 3 Nelson def. Slagle, 3 and 2
Group winner:	Hulka advances to finals after winning 3-way putt-off

SPACKLER GROUP	W	L	T
Dave Dean	3	0	0
Elmer Schmidt	2	1	0
Shaun Wilson	1	2	0
Jim Bieleniewicz	0	3	0

Week 3 matches:	Dean def. Wilson, 7 and 6 Schmidt over Bieleniewicz by forfeit
Group winner:	Dean advances to finals

CZERVIK GROUP	W	L	T
Tom Hegna	2	1	0
Justin Szela	2	1	0
Calvin Brown	1	2	0
Brent Degreef	1	2	0

Week 3 matches:	Degreef def. Hegna, 2 and 1 Szela def. Brown, 4 and 3
Group winner:	Szela advances to finals after winning putt-off

NOONAN GROUP	W	L	T
Trevor Hillman	2	0	1
Lee Steelgrave	1	0	2
Derek Schwertley	0	1	2
Amy Arnold	0	2	1

Week 3 matches:	Steelgrave and Hillman halved Schwertley and Arnold halved
Group winner:	Hillman advances to finals

Higher Handicap Tournament			
WEBB GROUP	W	L	T
Ben Goodwin	2	0	1
Jeff Coughran	1	0	2
Mike Tobin	1	2	0
Oscar Delgado	0	2	1

Week 3 matches:	Goodwin def. Tobin, 3 and 2 Coughran and Delgado halved
Group winner:	Goodwin advances to finals

SPAULDING GROUP	W	L	T
Al Palange	2	0	1
Charles Falcone	1	1	1
June Vutrano	1	2	0
Jeff Henriksen	1	2	0

Week 3 matches:	Palange def. Vutrano, 7 and 5 Henriksen def. Falcone, 3 and 1
Group winner:	Palange advances to finals

BISHOP GROUP	W	L	T
Bryan Nelson	3	0	0
Joe Pilewicz	1	1	1
Richard Carroll	1	1	1
Paul Kennedy	0	3	0

Week 3 matches:	Nelson def. Pilewicz, 3 and 1 Carroll over Kennedy by forfeit
Group winner:	Nelson advances to finals

D'ANNUNZIO GROUP	W	L	T
Ron Sweat	3	0	0
Rich Perry	1	2	0
Mike Marsolek	1	2	0
Val LeChuga	1	2	0

Week 3 matches:	Sweat def. Marsolek, 6 and 5 LeChuga def. Perry, 2 and 1
Group winner:	Sweat advances to finals

Match Play—Final Four

The round-robin winners moved on the single-elimination Final Four, starting at Legend at Arrowhead. The Lower Handicap Group matches were set as Justin Szela vs. Steve Hulka and Dave Dean vs. Trevor Hillman. The Higher Handicap Group slate was Ben Goodwin vs. Bryan Nelson and Al Palange vs. Ron Sweat.

Again, Justin did not know if he would be in the finals until after his pre-round putt-off victory over Tom Hegna. He fell behind Steve by three holes through 8, then reeled off three wins in a row to tie it after 11. Steve won the 13th, then the 15th to go 2-up, then closed it out with a par on the 16th to win 3 and 2.

The Dean-Hillman contest proved that it's all about timing in match play. While Dave's net score for the round was only one stroke better than Trevor's, he still won by a count of 4 and 3. Trevor dug himself a deep hole by getting down 5 through eight holes. He started to come back on the 11th, but despite shooting a blistering 1-under 35 on the back nine, he could never get it closer than three.

Legen at Arrowhead GC

Hole			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
HDCP			11	3	15	17	5	1	9	13	7	4	18	8	12	16	10	14	6	2
Semi-Final	Player HDCP	Player 1 Strokes	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Justin Szela (Player 1)	4		5	5	5	3	5	9	4	4	4	5	4	4	5	3	5	5	4	7
Steve Hulka (Player 2)	3		3	5	4	4	5	5	4	3	5	6	5	4	4	3	4	3	4	4
Player 1 Match			-1	-1	-2	-1	-1	-2	-2	-3	-2	-1	0	0	-1	-1	-2	-3	0	0

P2W

Tie Break If Needed

Legend at Arrowhead GC

Hole			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
HDCP			11	3	15	17	5	1	9	13	7	4	18	8	12	16	10	14	6	2
Semi-Final	Player HDCP	Player 1 Strokes	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Dave Dean (Player 1)	6		4	6	4	4	5	5	4	3	5	5	6	4	5	3	4	4	5	7
Trevor Hillman (Player 2)	1		6	7	5	3	4	6	5	4	5	4	3	4	4	3	5	2	4	5
Player 1 Match			1	2	3	2	2	3	4	5	5	5	4	4	3	3	4	0	0	0

P1W

The Low Handicap final is now set as Dave vs. Steve, with Justin and Trevor battling it out for 3rd.

Ben simply ran into a buzzsaw in his match with Bryan, who was not only on the back end of his consecutive net 67s, but was also getting nine strokes. The result was an 8 and 7 victory for Bryan.

The Palange-Sweat match was the only of the four in which both players held a lead at some point during the competition. Al grabbed the early lead on the 2nd hole before Ron took it on the 7th. The margin was never more than one either way until Ron picked up back-to-back wins to go up 3 through eleven. Al countered with two of his own to cut it to a 1-hole deficit with five to play. It stayed there on the 14th, then Ron won the 15th and closed it out on the 16th by a margin of 3 and 2.

That sets up a Higher Handicap final of Bryan vs. Ron, while the consolation match is Ben vs. Al.

Legend at Arrowhead GC

Hole			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
HDCP			11	3	15	17	5	1	9	13	7	4	18	8	12	16	10	14	6	2
Semi-Final	Player HDCP	Player 1 Strokes	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
Bryan Nelson (Player 1)	17		4	5	4	3	6	6	5	4	5	6	3	5	5	3	5	4	7	4
Ben Goodwin (Player 2)	8		6	6	5	4	5	9	5	3	5	6	4	6	4	3	4	4	4	5
Player 1 Match			1	2	3	4	4	5	6	5	6	7	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

P1W

Tie Break If Needed

Legend at Arrowhead GC

Hole			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
HDCP			11	3	15	17	5	1	9	13	7	4	18	8	12	16	10	14	6	2
Semi-Final	Player HDCP	Player 1 Strokes	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Al Palange (Player 1)	12		5	5	4	4	7	7	6	4	5	7	5	4	5	4	6	6	5	7
Ron Sweat (Player 2)	10		5	6	4	4	5	6	5	4	5	6	4	6	6	4	4	4	5	10
Player 1 Match			0	1	1	1	0	0	-1	-1	-1	-2	-3	-2	-1	-1	-2	-3	0	0

P2W

The winners in each group will earn \$200, the runners-up, \$80 and the 3rd-place finishers \$40.

Next Up: Superstition Springs

The Match Play Finals and, of course, our regular event will move back to the East Valley this week on the quirky layout at Superstition Springs in Mesa. The course features water on ten holes and lots of mounding and grass bunkers around the greens. The 17th and 18th are actually great risk-reward finishing holes for a match play tournament, should the matches get that far.

If you're planning on walking this one, you might want to have an Uber on standby to get you from the 3rd hole to the 4th, and from the 6th to the 7th. It's a 7:30 shotgun start. As we go to press, there are 11 spots open should you want to join the fun.



A look back at the peninsula green on the par-5 17th hole at Superstition Springs--a very strategic hole for a match play event

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