Best Ball Championship Match
September 23, 2026

Against all odds, the final best ball match came down to the Dave Means/Chad Fien versus Theron Roschen/Steve Pedretti, who play together in our monthly tournaments… making this a grudge match (minus the grudge). We decided to play the final match at Edgewood Golf Course in South Lake Tahoe – especially since Dave generously offered to pay for our green's fees! A BIG thanks to Dave!

Our foursome drove to Tahoe a day early to get in a practice round at South Lake Tahoe GC. We decided to play nine holes; at the end of nine, we were tied, so we decided to keep going until we had a winner. Finally, Dave/Chad won on the 14th hole – so TJ/Steve bought drinks after the round.

We awoke the next morning to absolutely gorgeous weather – cool in the morning, but no clouds and it warmed up quickly. We checked in and hit range balls at the perfectly manicured driving range – oh, and only Titleist's used for range balls (TJ noted that the range balls were better than those he used on the course). We also noted that the practice green was very fast, and later found this to be the case on the course. During the round we found the grass on the entire course to be in perfect shape. All that plus lake and mountain vistas.

Dave played the combo tees, all others played White. That gave Chad three pops, Steve and TJ eight pops each.

At 8:36 am we teed off on No. 1… Dave started things off with a par to take an early 1-up lead. Steve got frustrated when Dave conceded Steve's putt 12 feet (to avoid giving TJ a read on his putt that mattered). Steve was upset for a minute – he just wanted to putt! Dave noted it's just gamesmanship; TJ noted that the funniest part was that anyone thought that he could actually take advantage of the read in any case. Steve stopped whining and we all had a good laugh (and Dave did this to Steve a couple other times; we got him back once).

It looked like Steve might tie it up when he was the only one on No. 2 in regulation, but his lag putt on the fast greens went about 10 ft past the hole, and he missed the comebacker. He, TJ, and Chad all bogeyed to halve the hole. Dave and TJ both bogeyed the tough par 5 third hole, but TJ was popping, so the match was tied. Chad and Steve both bogeyed the par 5 4th hole, so the match remained square. Steve/TJ took the lead on No. 5 when Steve managed a par 3 and Dave/Chad had troubles. Dave had a hole-best 5 on No.6, but TJ was popping and halved the hole with a double bogey.

Then Steve got hot. He parred the par 3 7th hole to Chad's bogey; TJ/S 2-up. Both Dave and Steve parred No.8, but Steve had a pop, so TJ/S 3-up. Steve rolled in a 10-footer on No.9 for par 4, beating Chad's bogey: TJ/S 4-up at the turn. Chad had bad luck with putting all day, at least three or four putts of 10 ft or more just barely missed – he was robbed when one putt would have gone in but hit an indentation in front of a hole and stopped at the edge.

The back nine started with both Steve and Dave bogeying the Par 4 10th, but Steve was popping to put TJ/S 5-up. Dave won No. 11 with a bogey 5 while all the others scored 7's: TJ/S 4-up. Theron parred no. 12 to Chad's bogey, making TJ/S 5-up. No. 13 saw Dave, Chad, and Steve all bogey, but with a pop, TJ/Steve won it 6-up with 5 to play.

Of note during the round:

- I already mentioned Chad's bad luck with close putts that always seemed to find an unseen break right in front of the hole…
- Steve had an excellent day with the driver, hitting long and on every fairway except No. 18 (well, with a couple fairway sand traps thrown in). His second shots – not so much.
- Dave had an unusual shot, scoring a "duckie" – hitting over a lake, his shot was directly on line with the pin but was going to land near the edge of the lake, when it hit a duck! The ball veered left and I think made it on to the green anyway, if I recall correctly – minus the duck, the shot would have ended right at the pin. Steve tried to copy this strategy but instead dropped two consecutive chip shots into the lake.
- Theron found himself scrambling several times. His best shot was from about 30 yards in the woods (luckily a marshal saw his shot and found the ball). Theron somehow hit a great recovery shot through a tiny gap in the trees to get back on the fairway.

All in all, we had a great time, at a great golf course, on a great weather day, with great friends.