

Hagfors V Arechavaleta

September 4th

A Friday morning at Wildhawk brings Christian Arechavaleta and Luke Hagfors together for the second round of the club championship. 11 stroke differentials as Christian takes the white tees and Luke on Gold.

TLDR; Christian takes the match 3 & 1

18-hole stroke play and match play are different games, and Christian's 11-stroke cushion turned five strokes' worth of raw deficit into a comfortable win.

The front nine was a chess match more than a boxing match — four of the nine holes were halved outright, and neither could put together back-to-back wins. Christian drew first blood on the par-4 2nd, Luke answered right back on 3, and they traded again on 4 and 5. The turning point was the par-4 8th, where Luke uncharacteristically shoots double bogey with Christian capitalizing on the mistake with a smooth true par, net birdie. With a string of holes coming up that had the two playing straight up, Christian makes the turn at 2 up.

Luke didn't fold, though. He came out of the gate on the back nine and immediately won 10 to cut the lead in half — for a moment it looked like the match might tighten back up. But Christian steadied things with halves on 11 and 12, then delivered the dagger on 13, winning with his stroke to go back to 2 up. Two more halved holes kept the margin safe.

Now with the match dormied, the last chance for Luke to hang on to a playoff hope was the 17 par 3. Luke tees off to a short sided flag and lands left of the hole. Christian's only job was to stick it close. Christian stepped up and landed short, but not that short. 13ish ft with 2 feet of clear fringe. All he has to do is Texas Wedge it in close for a par to push the whole knowing Luke is a **short game savant**. The pressure was too much for Luke. I duffed wedge lands him a foot closer than he was. Second chip shot get him close to tap in for a bogey. Christian puckers up and hits his put to a couple feet. To close out the match, Christian delivers the final blow.

A special thanks to Luke! A round with one of the boys is always appreciated.