

With a foursome consisting of two club championship matches, it was sure to not disappoint. I'll let the story of Chris Roby and Tim Craggs' match be told by others, and we'll focus on the seasoned golf vet Winton Emmett versus the club championship first timer Christian Arechavaleta. With 15 stroke differentials as Christian takes the white tees and Winton on Gold. Winton has his work cut out for him. Ok, done with the boring intro – let's get to the action.

Hole 1 saw no blood, with Christian and Winton both parring the hole to go all square into hole 2. Winton's drive off 2 bled into the far right, about 3 feet away from trouble. With a glimmer of hope, Christian saw the chance to capitalize. One thing Tim warned Christian about was the mastery of Winton in tough position. And just like that, Winton gets himself out of a pickle and into the action. Unfortunately, with the end result of two boggies for the pair, CA takes the hole with the pop. Hole 3, through 7 were a blur. Somehow, Christian snagged 5 holes in a row to go 5up in the first 6 holes. You would think that would be enough to send Winton packing at the turn...

Winton decided to battle through the adversity and stick to the mastery of the golfer he knew was deep down. Winton Taking holes 8 and 9, saw Christian 3 up going into the back nine. At this point, Christian is carding a 41! For a golfer with a 24 handicap, I would scream shenanigans!! But as we all know too well, golf is a delicate flower blowing in the wind. And as such, that flower is going to get close to being blown onto the 5 freeway and get ran over by some big rig. Or not... Let's jump into the back 9.

Back 9 saw Winton on the right of the cart path scouring through range balls to locate his. A crisp drive put Christian 70 yards from the flag. A Winton special has him on the green! A Christian regular has him duff a chip shot. Christian on in 3 with a long put. Somehow, Christian nuzzles it close to the hole. Winton carding a par with Christian bogey. One of those rare holes where Christian doesn't see a pop, has Winton continue his mountain conquering to come to within 2 of Christian.

After the 3-hole streak, Christian takes 11 and 12 to put the differential to 4. Winton snags 13, as Christian cards a triple after an errant tee shot and missed recovery shots. No score changes on 14. Christian's first opportunity to close out the match falls short as he cards a double bogey on 15, to put Winton within 2, with 3 holes left to play.

Whole 16 has Winton playing conservative with an iron off the tee for center fairway. Christian does what ever he can to stay away from the water, and with a duffed 5- wood shot he somehow misses perfectly to 120 yards out. Winton's second shot has him long on top of a hill facing a flag that's tucked close to the water side. Christian slightly long landing him with 3 feet of short grass between his ball and the green and a decent distance to the

flag. Winton has a tough wedge shot that lands hard and rolls off the green. Christian's Texas wedge lands a couple feet short of the hole. Winton's last-ditch effort had him going with a putt that wasn't going to be left short, ultimately missing for a 5. A missed 2-footer, and a too close for comfort last putt, has Christian bogeying the hole. Winton and Christian both carding 5's, the pop gives Christian the match at 3 up with 2 left to play.

A special thanks to Winton for keeping me clenching till the last few holes, as well as showing tremendous sportsmanship throughout the day. Also, thanks to Roby and Tim for showing me the ropes of competitive etiquette.