

2026 Club Championship Match at Wildhawk Golf Course on Monday, August 24

Randy Ronning vs Larry Orcutt

(Joined by Tom Persons and Dave Means providing real-time commentary)

Both players played White tees, winter rules. Larry got 3 pops.

Holes 1 thru 3: Both players feeling each other out, dancing around the middle of the rink. No head shots. No blood drawn. Just swings and misses. Match all square after 3 with each player carding bogey, bogey, par. But this all changed on Hole 4 when the blood bath began that lasted for the next 12 holes. It was a Rock 'em, Sock 'em relentless batch of haymakers until the end.

Hole 4, Par 3: Randy draws first blood with a 2-putt GIR par from 40'. Larry was only 25' away on the fringe, but after a less than stellar lag putt, missed his 5-footer to push. RR +1

Hole 5, Par 4: Larry lays well back and then hits a great shot onto the back of the green. It takes Randy 3 shots to get onto the green, and after he 3-putts, Larry gets his GIR par to square the match.

Hole 6, Par 4: Larry continues his good play with a 2-putt bogey to take the lead. Randy nowhere to be seen on the hole. LO +1

Hole 7, Par 3: Larry gets his 1st pop of the day....on a Par 3! Both players tee shots were short of the green. Larry chips past the hole about 12', and then Randy, using his Texas wedge, knocks in his chippy birdie. Larry misses his par putt to push. Match back to All Square.

Hole 8, Par 4: Larry gets his 2nd pop of the front 9 and uses it well. Randy gets on in 3 and Larry, after air-mailing his bunker shot over the green, gets on in 4. But then Randy 3 jacks for a 6, and Larry 2-putts for a 6 to win the hole with a net Bogey! LO +1

Hole 9, Par 5: After dubbing a fairway wood, Randy gets on the fringe in 4, but 45' away. Larry is in the right, front bunker in 3. 3 bunker shots later, Larry has a 15' putt for 7. After Larry charges his double bogey putt, he misses his lengthy come back putt and gives Randy his 3-footer for a double bogey 7. Match All Square at the turn.

Hole 10, Par 4: Randy gets on in reg, and after Larry 3-putts for a double, Randy 3-putts for a bogey to win the hole. RR +1

Hole 11, Par 4: Both players on the front fringe in 2. Larry chips long. Randy's Texas wedge leaves a 4-footer for par. After Larry misses his 15-footer for par, Randy makes his slippery putt to go up 2. RR +2

Hole 12, Par 3: Both players on in 2. Randy 3 jacks again and Larry wins the hole with a bogey. RR +1

Hole 13, Par 4: Larry's last pop hole of the match and the hole where the tide turned. Randy scuffs his tee shot left and then pops his fairway wood up to the 150 yd marker. Larry thins his 2nd shot to about 90 yds in. Both players manage to have par putts, about the same distance, but Randy is on the fringe and again, using his Texas wedge, trickles the treacherous downhill into the cup for another chippy par skill point. Larry has a par putt to win the hole, but it just slides by. He then takes no time for his 2-footer to push the hole but it, too, slides by. Randy takes the hole. RR +2.

Hole 14, Par 5: Both players have Par putts. Larry from 30 feet. Randy from 5 ft. Larry misses. Randy makes. RR +3 with 4 to go.

Hole 15, Par 4: Both players have great drives but both players duff their approach shots. Randy hits his 3rd onto the green but Larry thins his over the green with an impossible shot to a back pin. He goes for the miracle shot, comes up short, then chips it past the hole, now lying 5. He misses the double bogey putt and Randy 3-putts for a double bogey to win the hole and the match, 4 and 3.

After starting out very mundane, the match turned into a blood bath. Every hole from the 4th to the 15th was either won (with good shots) or lost (with bad shots) and sometimes won with bad shots. It was a fun match and Larry will certainly remember to bring his golf shoes to future matches. He played the entire match in his Crocs.