Lesniak V Arechavaleta

October 11

A perfectly cool Sunday morning 7:34 am tee time brought Christian Arechavaleta and Ronnie Lesniak together for the final round of the club championship. And although Christian has dominated the track at Wildhawk, Ronnie was no sucker to let that happen again. The two tee'd off at Mather, with no other members joining making this true head-to-head, mano a mano showdown. With Christian at a 22 HCP and Ronnie at an 8, tee selection brought the difference down to 9 with Ronnie teeing off from the blues and Christian at the whites, or Raptor and Navigator respectively.

TLDR; Christian takes the match 1 up
The front nine started off to a slow start, with holes 1 and 2 all square as the pop on 1 gives Christian's double bogey a tie to Ronnie's bogey and both par'd the par 5 second hole. Christian takes the lead on hole 3 with both players carding a par but the stroke makes it a net birdy for Christian. No dice on holes 4 and 5. Ronnie makes it all square on hole 6, while Christian hold's on to tie hole 7. Ronnie steps on the pedal to take holes 8 and 9, giving him a 2 up lead going into the back 9.

Christian had this view before, as Dave had a 2 up lead at the turn in the semi's. In familiar territory, Christian knew he needed to change the direction quickly. A great drive on 10, put Christian 150 yards out. Christian stuck it 3 ft from the hole for an easy birdie putt. Ronnie on the other hand had some tree trouble going long with little to no recovery shot. Ultimately Ronnie Conceded the hole, cutting the lead in half. Two great tee shots on the over the water, par 3, saw both players carding pars with regulation 2 putts. Next hole also had Christian and Ronnie carding pars on the par 5, although Christian's pop brings the score to all square going into 13. Now the short par is the perfect time to capitalize for Ronnie, as he hits a great drive down the center, with a slight draw bringing the ball to settle somewhere close to 30 or 40 yards out. Christian tops his drive, then hits a 5 wood long left. A third chip shot duffed leaves Christian lying 4 on the green. Only at this point is when he realizes, Ronnie hasn't been able to locate his ball. After some more looking, the great tee shot gets erased as the leaves, shadows, and a bit of mystery make the ball disappear. With the drop, and a chip shot with regulation putts both players are happy to walk away with a halved hole, as 6's are carded. Hole 14 par 3 saw Christian blow a great tee shot as a 4 putt is simply never planned for. Ronnie back on top with a 1-up lead after 14.

Christian is coming into his last 2 pops of the round, with back to back pops on hole 15 and 16. If there was ever a time to turn the tides, this would have to be the time to make it happen. Spoiler – He made it happen.

Hole 15 saw….have no idea. Nothing memorable about this hole sticks out. Scorecard has Christian at 5 and Ronnie carding a 6, putting the match at all square. Onto the next, hole 16, the last par 5, had Ronnie in trouble off the tee as his tee shot went left hitting some trees. Unfortunately, this ball suffered the same fate as the hole 14 ball and was never recovered. A non-eventful hole for Christian has him carding a 6, net par, with Ronnie an 8, giving Christian the lead for the first time since the third hole.

Hole 17 gives Ronnie an opportunity to tie the match going into 18. This hole has Christian scrambling. Ronnie on in regulation, and Christian taking his third from 30 ft out. A clean chip puts Christian 6 ft out. Just the right distance to be uncomfortable. Ronnie makes light work of his puts, in with a par. Christian's nerves tense and breathing exercises ensue. The putt goes in and the match is dormie.

Last hole needs to go Ronnie's way to force a play off. Ronnie's drive leaks to the right putting him a little further out than ideal. Christian's silver tee box has him about 75 yards up, changing the angle of the hole. Trees on the left side has him blocked off from the slight dog leg left. Christian goes on to whip a drive, almost majestic in nature, as the shot shape juxtaposed the contours of the hole. Over the trees on the left, with a fade dropping it 70 yards to the back pin location. Ronnie hits an iron short of the green. Christian a duffed chip shot, almost as if 2 great shots back-to-back are impossible. Christian second chip shot lands on the lower edge of the green, giving Christian the longest put possible on that

green. Ronnie carries his chip shot past the hole. Christian hammers a putt that leaves a tap in. Ronnie understanding his fate, concedes the hole.

And just like that, the Cal Trans Capitol Golf Club has a new Club Championship.

Special thanks to Ronnie for putting up a great fight. Thanks to all amazing golfers I was lucky enough to share 18 holes with. I loved getting to know everybody better throughout the journey. Looking forward to defending the title in 2027!