

Captain's picks lead Lancaster

The Red Roses squad handed York a 14.5 to 9.5 defeat in Sunday's War of the Roses.

By AL GREGSON
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Oct 1, 2007 — Lancaster County captain Steve Graybill received stellar performances from his five captain's picks Sunday to defeat York County, 14½ to 9½, in the 13th year of what has become an early fall tradition - the Zero Restriction War of the Roses.

On a spectacular Red, White and blue day, the Red team seized control early. Trailing by two after five holes, LCC President and greens committee chairman Jerry Hostetter won five holes in a row to take a 3-up lead over York's Joe Freed in the first match and brought it to the house with a 4-and-3 triumph.

In Match 2, Lancaster dentist Dave Richards filled his first cavity on the golf course with a 6-iron for his only career hole in one. It occurred on No. 6, 180 yards downhill. Richards almost put it in the jar again on No.17, and his birdie gave him the lead he needed to outduel Matt Henry of South Hills, 1 up.

Grandview's Dan Wolfe trailed by three holes early, but a birdie on No.12 began a winning run of four straight holes and a 2-and-1 win over Brian Groff to bring York within four.

But Ken Phillips, playing in pain with a bad back, won big over Bob Ruby, and Shawn Baker halted Cary Walton, 1 up.

Walton made "the best clutch putt I ever saw made," said Baker of his opponent. After skulling it out of the bunker on the short par-4 16th, Walton's poor chip left him 20 feet away.

Walton canned the downhill racer, but Baker returned the favor with a bomb from the front of the green on 17 and matched Walton's par on 17.

York captain Doug Barton had packed the middle of his lineup with Ruby and Walton, two former pros, plus T. J. Ostrom, a three-time county Amateur winner. Only Ostrom, one of Barton's two captain's picks, came through Sunday with a 2-and-1 victory over Corey Gast.

Lance Smith, who will be York's captain for the 2008 tournament to be played at Out Door, lost to Rick Wise, 3 and 1, and Chris Mescan, Barton's other captain's selection, fell to Craig Kliewer, 2 and 1, after a late rally from five holes back with five to play.

"I struggled early on with my driver," the current Grandview club champion said.

Scott Knouse and Denny Lankford scored for the York side Sunday. Lankford won, 4 and 2, over Chance Miller, but Knouse had to call on all of his golfing acumen to score a 1-up victory over young Eric Brubaker, whose birdie on No.12 helped him come almost all the way back from a five-hole deficit.

With the issue decided, Bob Kuhn of York and Rob Campbell were called off the course, along with elder statesmen Wayne Jacobs of York and King Knox. Their matches were counted as halved.

"Time for the afternoon singles," Ruby chirped as players from both teams got ready for photos behind the 18th green.

"I heard a lot of flak about the captain's picks," Graybill said after the matches. For the record, they were Hostetter, Baker, Brubaker and Campbell, plus Kliewer, who got a late spot after a last-minute withdrawal. Combined, they were 10-3-2 for 11 of their team's points.

Barton, whose father George Barton served as assistant captain, praised his dad as one who helped create this tournament that amateur players on both sides of the river look forward to each year.

"It was a great weekend," he said. "I've been away (from this) since the first two years when I played. I'm glad to be back. It was really terrific."

York golfers face big deficit in War

War of the Roses will conclude today at Lancaster Country Club

By AL GREGSON
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Sep 30, 2007 — LANCASTER - York made a bid to come all the way back from a 5-1 deficit, but Lancaster mounted a comeback of its own to grab a 7½ to 4½ lead at the conclusion of Saturday's first day of the War of the Roses at Lancaster Country Club.

Dan Wolfe and Matt Henry got York off on the right foot in the morning foursomes (or alternate shot) with a 4-and-3 victory over Jerry Hostetter and Corey Gast in one of only three matches that ended on the 15th hole.

So close is this competition that, of the other nine battles, four ended on the 17th and five completed all 18 holes on the beautifully difficult William Flynn layout of almost 6,800 yards.

Ken Phillips and Shawn Baker of Lancaster topped Scott Knouse and T.J. Ostrom, 4 and 3, while King Knox and Eric Brubaker posted a 5-and-3 verdict over Wayne Jacobs and Chris Mescan.

Rob Campbell and Craig Kliewer of Lancaster edged Bob Kuhn and Joe Freed, 1 up, while Chance Miller and Rick Wise plus Brian Groft and Dave Richards of the Red Rose team posted 2-and-1 wins over Lance Smith and Denny Lankford, and Bob Ruby and Cary Walton, respectively.

For a time in the afternoon, it looked as if both teams were going to do an about-face. Hostetter and Gast scored a 2-and-1 better-ball victory over Wolfe and Henry despite eagles from Wolfe on No. 3 and Henry on 13.

Smith and Lankford, Ruby and Walton, and Knouse and Ostrom came through for the White Roses, who only trailed 6-4 with the final two matches still on the course.

Smith had made a clutch 10-footer for par on No. 14 after hitting a tree with his tee shot, which both players said proved to be the turning point in their match. Lankford ended things with his birdie on 17.

Ruby and Walton were 3-under for their 1-up victory. Ruby got up and down from a bunker on the short 16th to keep a one-hole lead, and the pair held on for the win.

Down by one hole at the turn, Knouse and Ostrom won 10, 11 and 12 to gain a 2-up advantage. Phillips and Baker battled back to square things on No. 15, but Knouse hit his second shot stiff for a gimmie birdie on 16 and the York pair also took 18 to leave no doubt.

In the tightest match of all, Campbell and Kliewer led by one hole at the turn and preserved the Lancaster point by halving every hole on the back nine. On 18, Freed stood about 13 feet away from a tying birdie to earn a half-point, only to watch Campbell make a magnificent save from the right bunker for a conceded par.

Freed made a superb stroke on his ticklish try from above the hole, and the ball caught the left rim but failed to drop.

Even more disappointing for the York contingent was the final match. Wayne Jacobs' 35-foot birdie putt on No. 15 put him and Chris Mescan dormie with three holes to play. Needing only a par on one of the last two holes to earn a full point, the veteran pair failed to connect.

York will need eight points out of today's 12 singles matches to win outright. It can be done, but it's a tall order on a course with which the Red Rose squad is much more familiar.