

Wallace Routs Field in Scratch Division—Monique’s Par Putt on Final Hole Completes a Stunning Comeback Rally over Bill Ball

In a President’s Cup with another small field, Kent Wallace imitated that old Bob Seger hit *Like a Rock* and played solid golf over 36 holes and lapped the field in the scratch division.

The net division was filled with more suspense. That cliché about “playing to the finish without letting up” applied to Larry Monique who won on the final hole by draining a six foot par putt to edge Bill Ball by a stroke.

Final Results

President’s (Scratch) Division

1 st	Kent Wallace	160	(80 / 80)	\$50
2 nd	Gary Leonard	168	(85 / 83)	\$30
3 rd	Rob Ptacek	177	(85 / 92)	
4 th	Ray Rowe	178	(84 / 94)	

Vice President’s (Net) Division

	Larry Monique	143	(73 / 70)	\$70
	Bill Ball	144	(68 / 76)	\$40
	Ken Bronkema	147	(78 / 69)	\$30
	Steve Gauthier	151	(72 / 79)	
5 th	Ned Roethlisberger	156	(77 / 79)	
6 th	Pat McGuire	159	(73 / 86)	
7 th	Dave King	162	(83 / 79)	

Saturday Pins (\$14 each)

# 3	Kent Wallace	
# 6	Gary Leonard	
# 12	Larry Monique	
# 14	Ray Rowe	Blue = Par (below)

Sunday Pins (\$12 each)

	Pat “Magoo” McGuire	
	Steve “Pond” Gauthier	
	Kent Wallace	
	Ken Bronkema	Red = Birdie (below)

Saturday Net Skins (7 @ \$5 each)

# 3	Bill Ball	(3 / 2)
# 5	Steve Gauthier	(5 / 4)
# 9	Larry Monique	(4 / 3)
# 10	Bill Ball	(4 / 3)
# 11	Bill Ball	(4 / 3)
# 14	Pat McGuire	(3 / 2)
# 18	Pat McGuire	(4 / 3)

Saturday Gross Skins (7 @ \$3 each)

# 1	Gary Leonard	(4)
# 2	Gary Leonard	(4)
# 3	Kent Wallace	(2)
# 6	Gary Leonard	(2)
# 9	Rob Ptacek	(4)
# 14	Ray Rowe	(3)
# 17	Ray Rowe	(5)

Sunday Net Skins (9 @ \$4 each)

# 2	Ken Bronkema	(4 / 2)
# 4	Bill Ball	(5 / 4)
# 5	Larry Monique	(5 / 4)
# 12	Ken Bronkema	(2 / 1)
# 14	Ken Bronkema	(2 / 1)
# 15	Ken Bronkema	(5 / 3)
# 16	Ned Roethlisberger	(4 / 2)
# 17	Dave King	(6 / 4)
# 18	Larry Monique	(4 / 3)
	Black = Bogey	

Sunday Gross Skins (10 @ \$2 each)

# 2	Kent Wallace	(4)
# 3	Gary Leonard	(4)
# 6	Gary Leonard	(3)
# 9	Kent Wallace	(4)
# 10	Kent Wallace	(4)
# 11	Kent Wallace	(3)
# 13	Kent Wallace	(3)
# 15	Gary Leonard	(6)
# 17	Ray Rowe	(5)
# 18	Kent Wallace	(4)

It wouldn't be a true President's Cup without some "Magoo Presidential Medals (*in chronological order of their presidencies*) of Freedom." And now without further ado, the winners are..... [insert drum roll followed by "Hail to the Chief" (as well as laughter?)].

The **George Washington Award** winner is **Kent Wallace**. Washington was "first in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen" after defeating England in the Revolutionary War as well as the "father of our country."

Sidebar: As a child, Dad told yours truly that a variation of the above quote for the old Washington Senators was "first in war, first in peace and last in the American League!"

Wallace is the GW recipient because he was first in the scratch division as well as the "father of the golf course known as Yorktown North."

Wallace also could have received the Abraham Lincoln Award. Like Lincoln, Wallace is a religious man of faith who persevered—Lincoln over a five year Civil War that saved the country and Wallace over two days and 36 holes of golf.

The **Thomas Jefferson Award** winner is **Rob Ptacek**. TJ was our third president who is most famous for his home [*Monticello (as seen on the back of the nickel) which he designed himself. Near Charlottesville, VA (home of the University of Virginia which he founded), he lived about two miles "up the road" from Ash Lawn—home of our 5th President James Monroe*] as well as the Louisiana Purchase [*from Napoleon and France in 1803 for \$15 million (\$0.04 / acre)*] which doubled the land area in America.

Ptacek, like TJ, was third in the scratch division field. As of late, his golf shots have been similar to the momentous Louisiana Purchase—landing everywhere within the landmark **Jim Szilagyi Purchase** (*at \$1000's plus per acre*) 210 years later.

The **Ulysses Simpson Grant Award** winner is **Ken Bronkema**. Grant, portrayed in history books as much for his drinking as his inept presidency won the Civil War over Robert E. Lee and the Confederacy.

Sidebar / Trivia: While visiting Appomattox Courthouse (*site of Lee's surrender just east of Lynchburg, VA*), the tour guide said, "Grant was the first general who figured out that he could afford to swap fatalities with Lee because of his decisive manpower advantage and turned it into a war of attrition after Lee had dominated the "home turf" in the early years with his superior tactical skills / planning.

Coach Bob Knight once said, "Lincoln was 0 for 4 in picking generals until naming Grant as his top commander of the Union Army."

Why KB for this award?

First of all, neither will be mistaken for being teetotalers. Second, he overcame early woes (*a net 78 on Saturday that left him ten strokes behind first day leader Bill Ball*) to rally for a third place finish. Finally, he received an urgent text message on the "19th hole" from his wife to "retreat and take charge of another 'Civil War' brewing on the home front."

The **Calvin Coolidge Award** winner is **Ned Roethlisberger**. Coolidge, a Vermonter, was nicknamed "Silent Cal" because he rarely spoke during his presidency. One of his most famous quotes was, "The business of America is business."

Because of the random draw for the Saturday tee times and how we played determining the Sunday groupings, yours truly didn't play either day with NR. Ergo; "Silent Ned."

He also runs his own printing business (*Premiere Printing Corporation—an LMGGA Member / Guest sponsor*) although his two 18-hole rounds didn't match his company namesake.

The **Herbert Hoover Award** winner is **Ray Rowe**. Mention the name of President Hoover to anyone with minimal knowledge of history and their likely response will be that he was in office when the '29 stock market crash led to the Great Depression. [*The Smoot-Hawley Act which jacked up tariffs on imported goods led to a trade war among countries and the ridiculously low requirements for purchasing stocks on margin probably were bigger factors but I digress!*]

Rowe, a single digit handicap golfer, endured his own version of a “crash” on Sunday by shooting an uncharacteristic 94 (47 / 47).

On the bright side, his personal economic situation is such that his domain isn't a shanty with a “Hooverville” (*not to be confused with Hooterville in the old Green Acres television series*) address.

The **Dwight David Eisenhower Award** winner is **Gary Leonard**. “Ike”, a heroic general in WWII, is probably most famous for “sending in the troops” to integrate Little Rock Central High School (*which was still in operation as a school when yours truly visited on his 2003 fall road trip*) in 1957. He was also an avid golfer—although nowhere near the magnitude of our current incumbent president who “fiddles (*i.e. golf and fundraising*) while the world burns.”

In terms of history, DDE and Harry S Truman are considered “solid” presidents but ranked a notch / tier below the exalted Washington and Lincoln.

Leonard played decent golf over two days but couldn't match the Wallace juggernaut.

The **Lyndon Baines Johnson Award** winner is **Steve “Pond” Gauthier**. If playing a game of word association with the phrase “LBJ”, the typical reply is likely to be either, “Great Society” or Quagmire in Vietnam.”

The sticky Sunday weather was a miniature scale version of the Vietnam climate in terms of the humidity and temperature. Gauthier encountered his own “quagmire” (*or was it the Tet offensive?*) Sunday morning on #'s 4 and 5 when he carded consecutive triple bogeys.

After this, he declined to seek “re-election” (an additional 18-hole round).

The **Richard Milhous Nixon Award** winner is **Bill “Secretariat” Ball**. After benefiting from the third party candidacy of George Wallace and a riot at it's convention at Chicago in 1968, Nixon was riding high entering his 1972 race against George McGovern.

Why some overzealous Nixon supporters decided to bug the Watergate Hotel to pick up what the Democratic campaign strategy was is a mystery. Nixon won every state except Massachusetts and Washington D.C. in terms of electoral votes. Two cub reporters, Robert Woodward and Carl Bernstein, eventually discovered a cover-up that went all the way to the top and led to Nixon's resignation.

Ball, like Nixon, was riding high after Saturday with a four stroke lead. After shooting a 44 on the front nine Sunday, the “election” (*i.e. back nine*) / coronation appeared to be a mere formality.

Ball's “Watergate” [*not to be mistaken for the Battle of Waterloo where Napoleon was defeated and exiled to Elba (a common crossword puzzle answer)*] occurred, ironically along the Kalamazoo River. A quadruple seven on # 14 followed by a triple bogey eight on # 15 gave Larry Monique the opening he was seeking. He capitalized on Ball's miscues and subsequent “fall from grace” to prevail on the 36th and final hole.

The **Gerald Rudolf Ford Jr. (nee Leslie Lynch King, Jr.) Award** winner is **David King**.

For those who don't know (*or haven't visited the Ford Museum in Grand Rapids*), Ford was actually born in Nebraska. However, his mother divorced, remarried Leslie Lynch King and moved to Grand Rapids. King took the surname of Ford as a tribute to his stepfather in his early twenties.

King receives this award because his golf game was similar to Ford's—balls flying everywhere. Unlike Ford, there isn't a "gallery" at LMGA "majors." Thus, members don't have to walk around wearing helmets.

The **George Walker Bush** (AKA Bush 43, "W" or Junior) **Award** winner is **Larry Monique**. Back in early 2000 when all signs pointed to a Gore victory in November, yours truly told someone that Bush would win because of three words,

"Electoral college arithmetic. Bush wins everything west of the Mississippi except HI, IA, MN and the three Pacific coast states. He wins the Deep South handily except for FL which is a toss-up because of all the transplanted northern retirees and ekes out a Midwest state or two. Gore takes the northeast, the majority of the Midwest and CA, WA, OR and HI."

History proved "Magoo's" forecast correct although he didn't expect a Supreme Court ruling over FL to decide it almost two months later.

Monique was down five strokes / states after Saturday and lost two more to Bill Ball after the front nine. However, LM won two "swing holes" in #'s 14 (NM) and 15 (OH) to tie in the "polls" and leave the outcome away from the "judges" (*i.e. a playoff*) by draining his par putt on the final hole.

Because of this stunning comeback, Monique wins the G. W. Bush Award.

The **Barrack Hussein Obama Award** winner is **Pat "Magoo" McGuire**. "Magoo" has the misfortune of winning this dubious award for the second time in less than five years for two reasons.

First, he is a left handed golfer like the president.

Second, both were riding high early in their terms / rounds. Obama had a high approval rating early in his first term until he went all in on Obamacare and his party took a "thumping" (*his actual words*) in the 2010 midterms. McGuire went from a 54 on the front nine Saturday to a 40 on the back and kept himself in contention after the first day of the tournament. Unfortunately, PM "crashed" on Sunday as the Rocky Mountain "car lag" (*after returning Friday afternoon from a family reunion in Colorado*) set in. On Sunday, McGuire shot 50 on the front (*a four stroke "improvement" over Saturday*) and went into "free fall" (*similar to BO's post 2012 election poll ratings*) on the back with a 57.

That concludes our fifth annual Presidential Awards. Hope you enjoyed this "political spin" on the LMGA President's Cup.

Our next (minor) event takes place on Sunday July 13th at 9:00 AM in a format yet to be determined based on attendance. By the time this write-up is published, the brackets for the three divisions of the club championships should be posted. Please try and complete any first round matches as soon as possible so the pairings can proceed in a smooth manner through September and October.

The final "major" of the LMGA Grand Slam is the Member / Member with a paid greens fee for the 2015 season going to the winning pair. This event takes place on Saturday August 24th and Sunday August 25th. Unlike the Down & Derby and Member / Guest which are the same format on both days, this "major" is different.

Saturday is a better ball game where you can get bailed out by your partner on a bad hole. Sunday is a combined low net format where each person plays their ball all the way and subtracts their handicap after the round. Hope to see a lot of teams participating.

