

March 31, 1975

POOL REPORT -- PRESIDENT FORD GOLFING AT ELDORADO COUNTRY CLUB

The pool picked up the President and the other members of the foursome (Bob Hope, Leon Parma and Gillette President William Saltich) after they had teed off on the sixth hole. Ford bogeyed the hole, after attempting a 25-foot putt that rolled 10 feet past the hole.

The sun was warm and a breeze ruffled the tops of the palm trees that dot the course. Ford wore a maroon tee-shirt, red plaid pants and red, white and blue golf shoes. Hope looked dapper in ^{checked} robins egg blue ~~slacks~~ ^{slacks}.

On the short seventh hole, the president overdrove the green and said of his low liner, "that was a poorly hit ball." The breeze blew Ford's golf cap off his head, and his caddy scurried to retrieve it. The President also bogeyed this hole.

On the eighth hole (par 4, 348 yards), Ford's long drive split the fairway. He told his partners, "you've got to do it for the press, you know." Later he added, "if you fellas stick around, I'd hit some more good ones for you." Ford hopped into a golf cart driven by Hope, and after the California comedian hit his second shot, he shouted, "go sweetheart, go you baby." Said Ford: "good shot." Ford's second shot landed just to the left of the green, and he two-putted for a par.

On the ninth hole, ~~Parma~~ Ford again drove far down the fairway, outdistancing the other members of the foursome. After his drive, Hope, in an apparent reference to a bet on the round, quipped: "He's getting my rebate back." Ford's second shot landed in a sand trap to the left of the green, and he took three putts to sink his ball.

After the first nine, Ford tallied his score and reported that

he had carded a 42. He seemed pleased with his score, although he said "I should have had a birdie there."

On the tenth hole, Ford hooked a long drive, and asked for another ball. At that point, the press left the president.

During the second nine holes, the wind increased and the temperature dropped. Secret service agents and White House aides speculated that Ford would stop after 13 holes, but he was undeterred. His only concession to the cold breeze was ^{to don} a beige pullover.

Ford finished the round at 6:15 p.m. Enroute to the Wilson home where the president is staying, the motorcade drove through an expanse of desert. The wind whipped tumbleweed across the road, and at one point, visibility was so poor because of whirling sand that the presidential limousine slowed to a snail's pace. Ford arrived at the Wilson house at 6:55 p.m. to prepare for his dinner with Ronald and Nancy Reagan.

The Reagans arrived at the house at 8:07 p.m. Reagan, wearing a blue suit and a red tie, smiled at the press and said, "good evening, how are you?" Nancy Reagan, wearing a beige coat with a fur collar, smiled. At that point, the Fords emerged from the house. Said the president: "how are you? Nice to see you." ^{The president kissed Nancy on the cheek.} Betty Ford, wearing a long green print dress and a white scarf around her neck, accompanied the president and the Reagans a few steps further outside to pose for photographs.

They posed with the president's arm around Nancy's waist, and Nancy's arm around Betty's waist. Asked if they planned to talk politics, Ford said, "we're just old friends." Mrs. Ford asked, "what's politics?" Reagan said, "I promise not to ask him his golf ~~in~~ score if he doesn't ask mine." Said Ford: "He can ask me about the first nine, but not the last nine." Asked what was his golf score, Reagan replied: "It depends

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on whether I have some good shots or not."

Reagan flew to Palm Springs in a private plane, and told newsmen he planned to return to Los Angeles after dinner.

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