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Day Two at the Telus World Skins Game

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Bob Weeks brings you the latest news and insights from around the world of golf everyday.
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The second day of the Telus Skins Game didn't go off quite as planned I don't think. There were only a couple of birdies leading to an interesting ending with the pitch-off to declare the winner, which turned out to be Mike Weir.

There were 12 skins and \$270,000 on the line after no one won anything on the nine holes along with three left over from the day earlier.

So why did that happen? Course set-up – the pins were just way too tough and that meant very few scoring chances. The players were actually almost laughing at the location of some of the pins.

I understand the thinking behind the pin placements – with five guys in the field, you want to make it tougher so hopefully one will make a skin. But I don't think it worked. The first nine, with easier pin placements, produced much better entertainment and that's what this is all about. Instead of the hardest pins, you want almost the easiest.

I actually didn't mind the ending with the pitch-off. I mean, this is a made-for-tv event so why not have a fun, somewhat dramatic ending.

And here's a full admission. We were quite tight with the time for television and after Camilo Villegas hit his wedge shot in there, we just assumed it was Weir who won and did the interview as if he was the winner. Only later when I walked up on the green did I realize that it was really, really close between the two – we'd done everything a little ahead of them making the official decision. At least it turned out OK or it likely would have been a You Tube moment.

The winning wedge shot by Weir was also an awkward distance for him, he told me after – too far for a sand wedge, and too far for his pitching wedge. He played the latter, taking a little bit off.

The shot of the day actually had to be the shot on the extra hole at Bear Mountain, which Weir almost holed for \$1 million that would have gone to charity.

All in all, a good day to wrap up a good event. Telus does a great job with this program and it seems to work for them but after 10 years, they haven't yet renewed their contract, which is now up. I understand negotiations are underway and there are other interested parties should the telecommunications company bow out. As well, if it does leave, it will have done great things for charity, just like yesterday where it donated \$1 million.

I had a chance to play the other course at Bear Mountain last night – the Valley, and the front nine (all I played) was spectacular. Great greens and a fun, dramatic layout with lots of elevation changes. It's quite a duo of layouts at this facility. I actually might like the Valley better but both are solid. And the service was spectacular as well.

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