

# Romano, Garrett make a comical couple

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STATELINE—Rick Rhoden may have finished the opening round of the American Century Classic in the lead, but Brad Garrett of "Everybody Loves Raymond" fame and his co-star, Ray Romano, stole the show and the fans.

During his round, Garrett danced with the gallery, ate half a hot dog with Romano, asked the gallery to scream while he putted, and cracked jokes with Romano and Don Cheadle, star of the movies "Hotel Rwanda" and "Oceans Eleven."

Garrett, Romano, and Cheadle also took their time, finishing the 18-hole round in just short of six hours.

Whereas Romano played a solid round of plus-3 in the Stableford format, Garrett finished the first round tied for last with a score of minus-29. (In the Stableford format, players are awarded points for shooting under par or better and penalized points for shooting above par. For example, a double bogey subtracts two points and an eagle adds six points to your score).

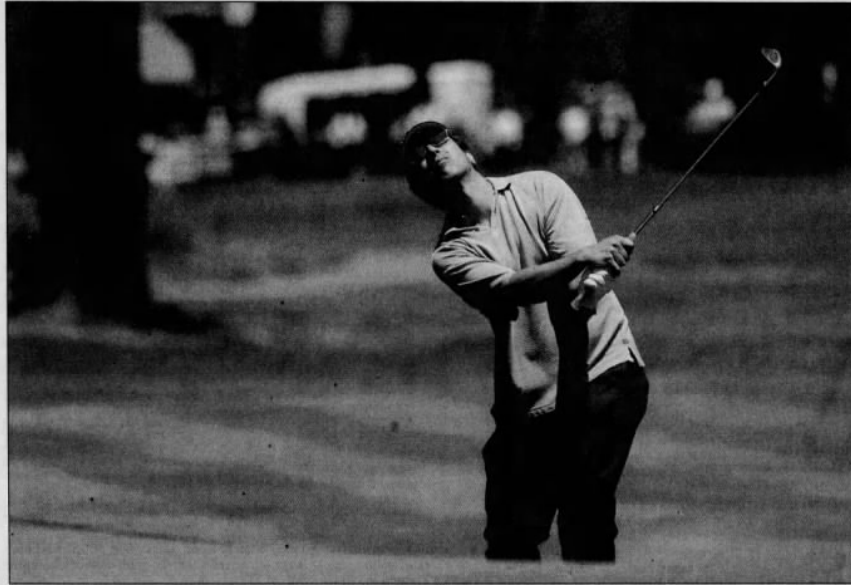
Garrett said he had a good round until he got to the sixth hole.

"Literally, we figured it out; I finished 41 over," Garrett said. "On the sixth hole I had trouble, I took a 38."

Garrett said that while Romano was playing a serious round, he came to Tahoe for a different reason.

"He (Romano) takes it seriously, I'm just here to meet men," Garrett said. "That's the bottom line, that's where I met Sean Hayes (of "Will and Grace"). We play cribbage every Sunday."

Garrett also had plenty to say



LIZ MARGERUM/RENO GAZETTE-JOURNAL

Comedian Ray Romano hits the ball onto the ninth green Friday during the American Century Championship at Edgewood Tahoe Golf Course.

about his playing partners after their round, which under normal circumstances would get him a punch in the stomach.

"Ray's been doing good, but I wish he would bathe," he cracked. "It's so warm out here."

Speaking about Cheadle, Garrett continued the banter.

"Don Cheadle is the only one of us out here with a career, so we don't like him much," Garrett joked. "He was so much nicer in those Ocean movies, very aloof; he didn't want to try

any of my clubs. He's in his own crazy Caucasian world, I just didn't buy it."

Romano fired back joking why Cheadle didn't like him.

"You called him Byron Allen for the first three holes," Romano said.

The hits continued with Garrett, who also took a poke at his caddy, who was wearing shorts after he said NBC instructed them not to.

"They give me the caddy from Survivor over here," Gar-

rett said. "The guy hasn't eaten in nine months. He doesn't like the way I hit. He doesn't understand it's just having fun."

Romano said Garrett's game wasn't an act but that it was just Brad being Brad.

Both Romano and Garrett recently ended their popular television show "Everybody Loves Raymond" on CBS.

Romano said he doesn't have any regrets and has been very fortunate to have such a great career thus far.

"I like the way it turned out," Romano said. "It's OK."

After his comment, Garrett got down and started shining Romano's shoes with his towel.

Garrett will be paired with Charles Barkley and Chris Webber today. The threesome will tee off at 10:50 a.m. on the 10th tee. Romano will be joined by Donald Trump and Jerry Rice today at 9:35 a.m. on the first tee. Cheadle will tee off with Jason Kidd and Emmitt Smith at 9:15 a.m. on the first tee.