

39th U.S. MID-AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP – Player Quotes

Sept. 14-19, 2019, Colorado Golf Club, Parker, Colo., and CommonGround Golf Course, Aurora, Colo.

Garrett Rank, of Canada
(1-under 69, CommonGround Golf Course, Championship – 69-69—138)

On his round today...

“I played great on the front nine, which was my back nine. I was a little bit sloppy on the other nine. Just played a little bit too conservative and then I made the turn and just said ‘screw it, let’s be super aggressive’ and hit it right at everything. I played good, made some mistakes today, a lot of mistakes really, but at the end of the day, two 69’s in stroke play is good enough to get into match play and that’s ultimately what you’re trying to do. You can’t win the tournament in the first two days.”

On his stretch of birdies during the second half of his round (front 9)...

“I started driving it a little bit better in the middle of the fairway and was way more aggressive. I just hit it at every flag. Earlier I was hitting the smart shot and getting bogeys and I just thought if we’re making bogeys doing that, we might as well have fun trying to hit it close.”

On his double-bogey on hole 15 and bogey on hole 17...

“I hit a good drive right down the middle [on hole 15] and ended up in that cross bunker and then had to lay it up. Then I hit it on the green and three-putted, so no bad shots really, just a bad club choice off the tee. Probably should’ve hit a 2-iron, but it’s tough to hit 2-iron when the hole is 520 [yards]. But I’m smarter than that. I’ve played in enough of these, I should know that it’s just a 2-iron and then I could probably hit a 6 [iron] or 7-iron into the green at the altitude here. So big mistake there.”

“I was a little bit too aggressive on 17. I made a great swing with a 4-iron, but it’s 240 yards out and I’m trying to hit it right at the flag, so I don’t know if that’s really the play. I added a few unnecessary strokes today, but happy.”

On how the closing holes (15-18) at Colorado Golf Club will play during match play...

“I think number 17 is really hard. [Hole] 18 is a tough tee ball and if you get it in the fairway, you can make birdie.”

“The par-5’s, unless you’re driving it down the hill on 15, I don’t think you can hold a 5 [iron] or a 4-iron on that green with how firm it is anyway. I think you’re almost better off to lay up. Yesterday I hit a drive that went 389 yards into that bunker and so that wasn’t ideal. I made two 5’s and was kind of disappointed. You can make anywhere from a 3 to a 7 on either of those holes pretty easily. It’ll be great for match play. You’re hopefully walking away with two 4’s.”

On his NHL referee obligations Tuesday...

“I’m kind of anxious to see which seed I get. I would love to be on the top half of the draw, just to make Tuesday a little bit easier. But at the end of the day, I feel like this is a bonus to be here anyways. It just happened to fit into the schedule. So push comes to shove, hopefully I either play well enough to get there and make it a problem, or we won’t even have to deal with it. I’m not looking too far ahead to that. I’ve got to get there first.”

On returning to the U.S. Mid-Amateur for the first time since 2013...

“After 2012 with the success I had there, you come here knowing what’s on the line and have worked so hard on your game during the summer and travel around and play all the events that you come here with the goal to win. You circle this one on the calendar. It’s been unfortunate that I haven’t been able to play the last four or five years but we’re here this year and hopefully we’re into match play.”

Other Notes:

#3 (par-5) – Driver down the middle, 2-iron to right off the green, chunked a chip, made 25 ft. birdie