

65th U.S. SENIOR AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP – Player Quotes

Aug. 24-29, 2019, Old Chatham Golf Club, Durham, N.C.

Roger Newsom, Virginia Beach, Va.

(Round of 16, def. No. 1 seed Michael McCoy, 4 and 3)

Best finish in a USGA event. 2 Mid-Ams. 2 Senior Opens. Steve Stricker hurt my feelings this year.

“I’m hitting the ball really well. I’m hitting fairways and I’m hitting greens. The last two rounds [of match play], I didn’t have but one bogey.”

“I’m hitting fairways and greens and after awhile somebody is going to make a mistake...The course fits my eye and I’m concentrating on hitting the fairway and hitting greens.”

“I hit balls usually on Wednesdays after I do surgery and then I go back to the office. I hit balls at lunchtime. And I play on Friday afternoons. And weekends. I don’t play [a lot]. I play at the most, twice a week.”

“There are two people in Virginia who I have looked up to. Pat Tallent and Keith Decker. And they have kind of mentored me and I’ve said, ‘Look, what do I have to do to get to the top?’ They’ve said you’ve got to hit the ball well, you’ve got to putt well and you’ve got to score. Pat Tallent says you’ve got to go low and don’t call and ask for anything else.”

“I wouldn’t say I am gifted. I’m just fortunate.”

Played at East Carolina for three years. Did not play his senior year to focus on getting into medical school. No pro aspirations. First college tournament I played with Davis Love III. McGregor Downs. He shot 68 and I shot 74. I went, ‘Dad, I’ve got to get a job.’ It was that stark of contrast.

Eastern Virginia Medical School. Residency at Wake Forest. Fellowship at University of Toronto with orbital surgery. Daughter is at Wake Forest. Cataract and eye lid surgery.