U.S. Amateur Four-Ball Championship – First Round of Stroke Play

Derek Ackerman/Matthew McCarty – 8-under 63 (Bandon Dunes Golf Resort’s Old Macdonald Course)

Derek Ackerman

(today’s round)

“It feels pretty good. We came into the round not knowing what to expect with the weather.  We heard in the player’s meetings that a 62 was out there and we were kind of thinking that when we got on a little bit of a run and made a few birdies on the front nine. On the last four or five holes we both had real good birdies looks and we were able to drop in the majority of them.”

Matthew McCarty

(first USGA championship)

“He calmed me down. That’s the good thing about this format, being out there with one your best friends is a lot of fun. We are pretty comfortable with each other at this point.”

(on one playing right-handed and one playing left-handed)

McCarty – “I think we have a pretty good feel for each other’s games. We kind of know what the other person is thinking. Having a different perspective on a lot of those putts and shots, the lefty-righty perspective helps us.”

(on putting)

Ackerman – “Honestly both our putters were hot on the front nine. I was able to stay hot on the back nine with the three birdies in a row. So having that feeling throughout the day was really nice that every time I stepped up to putt it had a chance of going in.”

(on Santa Clara playing in a tournament here last year)

McCarty - “We saw how easy the courses could play which helped today with giving us a lot of confidence that we knew birdies were out there.”

(on tomorrow’s round)

Ackerman – “We are going to have the same mentality tomorrow. Going out there and have fun and make as many birdies as possible. Hit greens, hit fairways and just make it as easy as possible on ourselves.”

Notes –

Santa Clara played in a tournament at Pacific Dunes last year …

No. 10 – Ackerman set up birdie with 175-yard, 8-iron approach  
No. 11 – Ackerman hit wayward tee shot into gorse and way out of hole … McCarty missed 5-foot par putt (team’s lone bogey)

No. 14 – Ackerman 30-foot birdie putt that hit the flagstick  
No. 16 – Ackerman 15-foot birdie putt (pitching wedge, 145 yards)