

# U.S. Junior Amateur Championship

Thursday, July 19, 2018

## Akshay Bhatia

### Quick Quotes

**Q. So, made it to the quarterfinals. What are your feelings on that first?**

AKSHAY BHATIA: Relieved. I mean, the first match I wasn't hitting it great. Just kind of struggling in the morning. Ended up making an eight-footer on 18 to win, which was really nice.

And then today both me and Yuki both stripped it. Whoever made the most birdies would get the win, and I made a lot putts coming down the stretch and hit a lot of great drives and set myself up for really good birdie opportunities.

**Q. Then he was up going into 7. Tell me about that stretch, 7, 8, 9?**

AKSHAY BHATIA: Yeah, 7 I hit it to the middle of the green, he didn't get up and down, so I won that hole with a par.

Next hole I got up and down for birdie.

Then next hole hit it to like three feet; made birdie.

Then we tied 10.

Then I think we tied 11.

I think we tied 12. I don't know.

**Q. Yeah. And then your par on 13?**

AKSHAY BHATIA: 13 he won. I hit it left in the creek and then I burnt the edge on my par putt, which was unfortunate.

And then 14 we both birdied.

15 I made like a 40-footer, which was a bonus, to get 2-up.

And then 16 I honestly don't know how my putt didn't go in. I hit a perfect putt. Burnt the edge.

And then 17 I hit it right and then he hit it pin high, so I knew I had to make a birdie in order to close the match out. I had 140 in; hit it to like six feet and drained the putt, which was really nice.

**Q. Obviously it's a long day. Two matches. How**



**much of the kind of mental side weighs into it when you get to the end?**

AKSHAY BHATIA: A lot. I mean, I knew beginning of this week it's going to a huge grind, but my caddie has a lot of good energy so having him next to me is really good, especially in match play.

So just have a lot of rest and hopefully close out the first two matches tomorrow pretty early. Hopefully see in the finals.

**Q. Going into another quarterfinals tomorrow, what is your mindset?**

AKSHAY BHATIA: Play my game. I mean, you can't play the other person's game, like I've said before. Just make a ton of birdies.

I'm hitting it so well and my putting most of the time is really good. As long as I can match the line and the speed right, it's going to be hard to beat me honestly.

**Q. Can you tell me a little bit more about the birdies on 8 and 9, clubs?**

AKSHAY BHATIA: 8 I hit driver and then I had 210 in. I hit 4-iron into the -- it was like on the lip of the bunker. I hit a really nice flop shot and made a slider about four feet.

And then 9 I hit driver. I had 76 yards in. Hit it to about five feet, which is a bonus because of where I was and where the pin was. I was left and the pin was tucked left.

I hit it to five feet and made the putt.