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

Ralph Blasey (Bethesda, Md.) and Alex Nianouris (Raleigh, N.C.): 8-under 62 (Bandon Dunes Golf Resort’s Pacific Dunes Course)

On the benign conditions**:** It was nice having the first tee time. (Ralph Blasey)

We also made a bunch of putts early. (Ralph). Alex: We got off to a good start and once you got to the holes that are on the water, you kind of hang on. 9-13

Alex birdied two of the last three holes, including a 25-footer on 18 to close out the 62. I missed the fairway way left and layed up to a good number and then hit it 25 feet left of the pin and drained it. Ralph gave me a good read, so I relied on him all day for that.

Four-Ball. First USGA championship

Teammates at Davidson. Never played in four-ball event until the qualifier.

QUALIFIER: birdied 6 of last 7 holes to get in a playoff. Wound up as first alternates, Washington Manor Golf Club in Urbana, Md. Got the call in December that they were in the field. Sept. 24

Ralph graduated Davidson in 2015 and Alex in 2016. Three years as teammates.

Ralph: We birdied the first hole, so it was a pretty fun start. (Ralph made a 15-footer). The vibes were going. We hammed-and-egged it really well. (Said both had four birdies).

PRESSURE OFF ROUND 2: Definitely. We don’t have the first tee time [on Sunday], so the wind will probably be up there. (Ralph)