

# U.S. Mid-Amateur Championship

Press Conference

Tuesday September 25, 2018

## Stephen Behr

**Q. So you got a lead and you were able to play from out in front again.**

STEPHEN BEHR: Yeah, Sam played really, really well. Really happy to get past that match. I knew very early on the way he was swinging, the putts he was making early, that I was going to have to earn everything I got today.

Just played very steady. My mentality for this tournament is I want my opponent to feel like they have to play perfect golf beat me, and I'm not going to give them anything.

I did that pretty well today and I was lucky to come out on top.

**Q. You birdie the 5th hole to give yourself the lead. How did you do that?**

STEPHEN BEHR: That's true. Yeah, I actually hit kind of a bad tee ball into the rough. With that pin being back right, I just hit a good little gap wedge that landed on the front.

Greens were a lot firmer and quicker today. Ran a lot of putts by. Just couldn't believe how fast they got. But that one actually the rough almost worked to my advantage there and I was able to run it short and let it run up, and he actually made 5. I just had to two-putt to win the hole and dropped it in.

**Q. And then you increased your lead on that par-5 to 12.**

STEPHEN BEHR: Yep. No, that was key. I made a good par putt on the par-3 before that.

**Q. Okay.**

STEPHEN BEHR: That was a big momentum putt.

**Q. How long was that?**

STEPHEN BEHR: Probably about eight, ten feet to stay 2-up, which was key.

Then on that par-5 he wasn't able to make birdie and I made about another eight-footer to get 3-up. There is a big difference mentally I think between 2-up and 3-up.

Unfortunately I gave it right back on the next hole, but it



was big that I had that 3-up lead to kind of give myself a little cushion.

**Q. And then you were able to close it out on the 16th hole.**

STEPHEN BEHR: Yep, second day in a row I was able to close it out on 16 just by making a par; 4 on that hole gets it done every time. It's such a hard hole, especially with that pin today.

But it was getting really close there. He had about four-footer to win the hole on 15 to go only 1-down, and he just missed it a hair to the right. So I dodged a bullet there and capitalized on the next hole.

**Q. Last one: As you go along, are you feeling more and more comfortable on this golf course?**

STEPHEN BEHR: Yeah, I think the more reps you can get on a course the better. Felt pretty comfortable starting match play, but just trying to execute shots and execute my game plan the same as I have in past rounds.