

STEPHEN BEHR (3-under, 68, 5-under, 137)

On bogey-free round after first hole: Pretty nervous start. I straight bladed a wedge over the green and ended up making a good six. It was almost a good thing because it made me settle my nerves a little bit. From there, I tried to pick good targets. Overall, I think Charlotte is probably a harder golf course, but on this one (Carolina Golf Club) you can get out of position really easily. My dad, who is on my bag, and I did a really good job of picking shots and clubs that would avoid getting out of position. I did that and played smart all day.

I honestly think getting off to a good start yesterday was key. Out here you really don't want to be in a position where you have to force it and start shooting at flags. That's the whole key out here, playing smart, playing to the fat of the green, giving yourself plenty of putts. If you start shooting at flags, you can get penalized pretty quickly.

On his mindset coming into the day: I just wanted to put together a solid round. Obviously, I knew I was in a good position, tied for fifth. I still wanted to shoot a solid round and guarantee a high seed going into match play. It's kind of a tough position really, when you play well the first day. You basically know that you can't play bad and that's not a real good mentality to have. Just tried to focus on maybe shooting a couple under par today and just take it one shot at a time, not getting ahead of myself.

On what it would mean to be the medalist at the U.S. Mid-Amateur: It would mean a lot. I just turned 25 this year. I think I'm the third youngest, I saw. So obviously a really great start to my mid-amateur career. At the same time, I know that I would rather finish 64th and win than medal and lose in the first round. I know anyone that makes match play is good enough to win a match against me. So I just need to focus on playing solid tomorrow and get ready mentally for a tough match.

On mindset going into match play: For me, I try to keep it relatively the same, game plan wise. Just focus on my game. The only time it really changes is if they hit it really close before I do. Then I might get a little more aggressive. Besides that, I'm going to stick to my game plan and try to keep on hitting good shots.

On U.S. Amateur experience helping this week: A ton. I still play a few tournaments throughout the year, but nothing like I used to. That was a really high-pressure event and I really felt like I gained some confidence that week even though I didn't make the cut. I knew that in my mind that I had a good chance to compete in this thing. Anytime you can get tournament reps for me, working for a living, is always beneficial.