

U.S. Junior Amateur Championship

Thursday, July 20, 2017

Cole Hammer

Quick Quotes

Q. Tell us about the match? Obviously you're facing a guy who won the national championship earlier this year?

COLE HAMMER: Yeah, it was a heck of a match. I'm not going to lie. It was unbelievable. He got to an early 2-up lead through three. I was able to make a long putt on 4 from about 25 feet and make an almost-30-foot birdie, and then another one on No. 5, so kind of evened out there.

He won 9 and 10. So he went back to 2-up. Birdied 11 and parred 12 and birdied 13. I won all those three holes, so that was big. I made about a 12-footer for par on 14 to stay 1-up, and that was huge. Made about a 3-footer on 15 to win the hole and go 2-up.

Missed a shorty on 16 to close out the match by about four feet, maybe five feet, which is a little unfortunate. But two putts on the last hole.

Q. What's that say about your resolve to come back twice from being down in the match?

COLE HAMMER: I think it shows a lot. I just kept telling myself there is no way I'm losing this match. I think that drive, that concentration kind of carried me through when I was 2-down a couple times. I mean, he played great. We both played well. It was just I came out on top.

Q. You talked yesterday about how you had trouble in the past staying in that one shot at a time mindset. Were you better at that today?

COLE HAMMER: Much better. I wasn't as good as I would have liked to be on the greens in those situations, but all my approach shots, my drives were really, really good. And I stuck to that game plan, and I really think that helped.

Q. Any thoughts about playing Garrick Higgo or I don't know if you know him?

COLE HAMMER: I met him at Sage Valley back in April. Seems like a really good kid. I know he's from South Africa and he's a lefty. That's about all I know.

Q. Can you finish up by going over your birdies at 11 and 15?

COLE HAMMER: 11 I hit a hybrid from 242 and landed



on the fringe, and I had about 25 feet right up there to about a foot. On 13, I hit a 54-degree wedge to nine feet and made it for birdie.