**2022 U.S. Senior Amateur Championship**

**Tuesday, Aug. 30, Round of 32 & 16 matches**

**The Kittansett Club, Marion, Mass.**

**Frank Vana**

(on competing in a USGA championship in Massachusetts)

* “It’s so good. Are you kidding? The weather’s perfect. This place is perfect. There’s no griping. You just have to play good golf to keep playing. And we didn’t really do that enough, but it was great. I had a ball. It’s great to be here. I’m glad I could hang on to stay another two days.”

(on the round today)

* “It was just back and forth. For whatever reason we would play good on a hole and then play not so good on the next hole. I was telling myself you can’t make too many mistakes because you’ll have to pay, right? I feel like I didn’t putt very well. My speed wasn’t very good today for whatever reason.”
* “I birdied the first hole and missed a 3-footer on the second hole. Right away it would’ve been nice not to do that. But the match kind of went like that. Down the stretch I had a few more bad shots than he did. 15 was bad, that hurt. 16 was horrendous and then we really played the wrong shot on 17. I wasn’t really thinking clearly. Just tried to hit it on the green and had too much club. Then on 18, I hit a great drive and then just hit a terrible second shot. That bunker is no fun, as you guys can imagine, so you know, that was just too bad.”

**Miles McConnell**

(on the match this afternoon)

* “I played poorly this morning, but I was able to score decently and win that match. Then this afternoon I finally was hitting the ball better, back to where I was, made some nice swings. I had my swing coach and best friend, Thad Coontz, here. He flew up this morning, along with my wife. And it was great to have their support. I started to play a lot better. But [Thad] helped me out in between rounds, just a couple pointers. He knows my swing really well. He’s a great teacher.”

(on his birdie on hole 5)

* “I had a tricky second shot with the wind. I played it out to the right and made about a 25-footer. Got out to a nice lead. But Lee, he played well too. He hung in there. He got one back on 10. The key was on 14, the par 3. I had fallen back to only 1-up, and he was up first, and he hit a shot about four feet away. I followed him up about five feet away. I made my birdie, then he made his, so I stayed 1-up. That was key. Then I birdied the next hole. Those two birdies on 14 and 15 were key today.”

(on reaching the quarterfinals)

* “It feels fantastic. I absolutely love this venue. I love the wind. I couldn’t be happier. Just extend it out another day, that’s the goal, right?”

**Bob Royak**

(on winning his morning match against Kenneth Bakst in extra holes)

* “I was 3-up and then I gifted him a couple holes and he made a couple nice putts. All of a sudden, I was 1-down going into 18. I hit the two best shots I hit all week – a drive and a 3-wood right in the middle of the green. Then made a four to win the hole. That was huge.”

(on his afternoon match against Matt Sughrue)

* “I played great in the afternoon and Matt did too. We both birdied 7. He birdied 8, 9, 10. He made I think five putts in a row, so 11 was a pretty good halve. Then I hit the flagstick on 12, like I’m posing, and the ball hits the flagstick and ricochets off the front of the green. Then I three-putted, so I lost that hole. But I made a really good birdie on the next hole, about a 30-footer from the middle of the green.”

(on reaching the quarterfinals)

* “It feels great. My game’s been in really good shape. I’ve almost put extra pressure on myself because I’ve been playing well coming into here. So I just think if I keep that level of play, I think I can win each match if I don’t give any holes away, just play my game, I should be able to survive.”

(his thoughts on Kittansett)

* “I’ve played six or seven rounds [at Kittansett] now, so I’ve got a really good feel for the lines. I’m very comfortable with the lines off the tee, how the greens are holding or not holding, and I don’t think this wind’s going to let up tomorrow or Thursday, so it’s a test. The holes out here that are exposed are really, really good.”

**Doug Hanzel**

* “The conditions are so difficult that you’re just trying to make pars, and if you hit it in the rough, you’re *really* trying to make par. It was a little back and forth; it wasn’t pretty at times. Sean’s like a junkyard dog, he’s gonna be after it.”
* “I gave him one or two there, with a three-putt on 11, and missed the green on the short par 3 and made bogey, but I hung in there. On [par-5] 15, I hit two great shots, knocked it on in two and made an easy birdie. I hit it green-high here [on No. 18] and gave myself an easy up and down for birdie.”
* “I struggled a little bit but I’m sure everyone does with this wind. The conditions are much firmer than we’re used to, and it plays mind games with you on some of the yardages. From 180 yards, I’m not usually hitting a 9-iron, but here you’re hitting a 9-iron [downwind], and that’s hard sometimes to pull the trigger. The more you play, the more you learn the distances, it’s just tough.”
* “On No. 17, I had 145 yards, I’m in the middle of the fairway, and I’ve got a 6-iron [into the wind]. I [usually] hit 6-iron 180, and I know I’ve got to hit it good. I probably can’t get it to the flag, but I couldn’t pull a 5-iron. I wouldn’t be able to swing! So I hit it to the front of the green and two-putted from 30 feet, and that was key because Sean hit a good shot in, but he three-putted. He’s a really good putter but he gave me one there.”
* At age 65: “I try to keep myself in shape, try to keep my game in shape, and it’s fun competing. Age is a number; I think I’ve aged fairly well in that I’m still competitive. I hit the ball far enough and I just enjoy these events; USGA events are the best – best courses, best fields. The competition is everything.”
* On competing as a diabetic: “I’ve had a couple of sugar issues; I’m a Type 1 diabetic. Nothing major, but I’ve got to keep a close eye on it, it’s just a bump in the road that you’ve got to deal with. I monitor it out there so that I don’t go low; I can play high [blood sugar], but I can’t play low. You get uncoordinated, you don’t think straight and you get in trouble.”

**Paul Simson**

* “The match as a whole was given away right there [pointing to No. 17 green]. He’s out of bounds and I’m 140 yards from the flag in one, and he’s going to make a 7, and I tie him. And that’s all there is to say. I probably should have laid up [short of the green], chipped up and taken my 5, but I didn’t do that. I hit it in the bunker, and then I hit a terrible bunker shot out of bounds, and I made 7 and tied him. I win that hole, the game’s over.”
* Week as a whole: “We had a pretty good game going this week; probably should have gone a little bit further. But it is what it is; it’s just a tough loss.”
* “The golf course is in fantastic shape – what are we dealing with here, 20-mile-an-hour winds? But we’ve had a couple of days to get used to these conditions. It’s more difficult than playing in a zephyr, but I think we’ve all adjusted pretty well to it. I wasn’t having that much difficulty clubbing; you know the greens are firm, so downwind you’ve got to be careful that you land it short or just in front, and into the wind, you’ve got to make sure you hit enough club, and for the most part, I was doing that today.”
* Based on 2012 victory: “I’ve got one more year of being exempt. That’s one of the reasons I wanted to win because that would guarantee me at least one year. And if I can get two, then I can play at The Honors Course, which is one of my favorite places in all the world, although I can still maintain my [WAGR] ranking in the top 25, which would get me there. There are lots of ways to get there.”

**Rusty Strawn**

* “Obviously, Paul is a legend in amateur golf and to have the opportunity to play against him is an honor. We both played pretty steady; I don’t think either one of us had our best games…. I played a lot better this morning.”
* “He got me a couple down in the middle of the round and I was able to make a couple of birdies on 15 and 16 and then we had the debacle on 17. I just got a flier from 145 yards – it wasn’t in real heavy grass, but I had to hit it hard and it knuckled right over the green and out of bounds. And then of course, he did the unthinkable out of the bunker, which I would never have thought possible.”
* Simson birdie from 8 feet to tie on 18: “With his reputation, there was no doubt that he was going to make that. I was like, let’s just go to the playoff hole… I was just glad to be there to be honest.”
* Two excellent two-putts on Nos. 18 and 19: “To me, it’s always harder to two-putt than it is to make a putt from 8 or 10 feet. To two-putt from 30 or 40 feet under these windy conditions, it’s tough. I was very proud of my lag putting.”
* “I made it to the quarters last year and Jerry Gunthorpe beat me in a very good match, and we’ll just try it again tomorrow.”