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

**Monday, Aug. 29, Round of 64 matches**

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

**Paul Simson (def. Buddy Allen, 2 up)**

(on his 42 foot birdie putt on the 18th hole to win the match)

* “It was up the hill. I felt like I needed to give it a good ride, because it’s uphill and a little into the wind. I hit it right on the spot we picked out, and every once in a while, they go in. That’s almost blind luck, well maybe not blind luck, but all I needed to do was two-putt to win the match. So I’m very pleased to move on again.”

(on his 14-for-14 record in the Round of 64 in the U.S. Senior Amateur)

* “That’s OK, isn’t it? (Laughing) I seem to focus pretty well in match play and am able to dig down deep and that’s what you have to do. You just fight every hole. I had three holes out there today – 5, 6 and 7 – where I lost my mind and made two double bogeys and a bogey and went from 2-up to 1-down and I said, ‘what is going on?’ But we settled down and I think I played a couple under [par] after that.”

(on the flow of the match on the back 9)

* “I made a pretty good up-and-down on 12 to keep the match tied. Then I made about a 6-foot birdie on the 13th hole to go 1-up then he made bogey on 14. You get two down with four to play and that kind of puts some heat on you. I had a good opportunity on 15 but couldn’t convert. I wasn’t losing holes. He won the 17th so I was 1-up with one to play. Which I knew if I made par on 17 the match would be over. Sometimes you start looking ahead saying ‘I hope I don’t do that again.’

(his thoughts on Kittansett)

* “What a great, great venue. It’s English golf, it’s American golf, it’s Scottish golf. It’s like about seven venues in one. It’s just a great place to play.”

(on how his missed cut last year motivated him this year)

* “That’s the only time I’ve ever missed the cut. I was real disappointed last year. This year I admittedly hadn’t been playing as well as I have [in past years]. But the last six weeks it’s been pretty good and I’ve started to play a lot better. Just one of those things you just have to keep after it and find it. Then hopefully keep ahold of it once you find it.”

**Frank Vana (def. Curtis Skinner, 4 and 3)**

(on winning holes 10-12 to go 3-up)

* “We were going back and forth a little; making some pars. I had a couple untimely three-putts, which probably held me back a little match-wise. One [hole] I tied, I should have won, and then another one that he won, I should’ve tied.”
* “I was hitting a lot of good shots. I felt pretty comfortable. He was hitting some good shots then he hit a couple loose ones. It was nice to make a birdie on 10 and then make a par on 12, that was good. We both had birdie chances on 13 then we made nice pars on 14. Then 15, I was lucky enough to hit a good shot in there to about four feet.”

(on how comfortable he is at Kittansett)

* “People who aren’t here have no idea how nice it is, how good the weather is. The view is insane. The golf course is perfect.”
* “I’ve played [at Kittansett] a bunch. We’ve had three state Am’s here and some tri-state’s. To be fair, I haven’t played here much in the last five years. But they’ve made good changes here. They changed some bunkers and they’ve added some teeth to it. It’s great. It’s spectacular.”

(on the conditions today)

* “The winds been kind of different every day. It’s good. It’s what Kittansett should be. Keep you on your toes, right? As long as the sun’s shining and everyone’s smiling, that’s good.”

(on the local support he has received)

* “It’s great. I have a lot of friends reaching out. I’m getting a lot of phone support and email support, which is cool. Then some friends are coming out to watch or people I haven’t seen for a long time, old faces, so that’s been great.”

**Gene Elliott (def. Tom Winegardner, 1 up)**

(on his putt on 18 to win the match)

* “I had missed a 5-footer up the hill on 17 to win the match. That putt [on 18] was a left-to-right putt and the wind was blowing left to right. I just wanted to give it a chance to go in. It’s a miracle that I’m here. It’s a miracle that I’m playing. And to have won a match is – it’s literally a miracle. All the issues that I have with my health, I didn’t think I’d be here.”
* “I can’t hit a driver very hard or very far, but I’m just trying to get it in the fairway and then see what we have from there.”

(on how he felt today)

* “It’s probably the best I’ve felt over the three days, which isn’t saying much because I felt awful the first two days. But to make match play, it was unbelievable. I don’t know how I did it. My back is a little bit better. The shoulder’s killing me. To be this far, I would have never guessed it.”

(on the back and forth match)

* “He made about a 70-footer from off the green on 11 and he made another one from off the green on the front 9. But I hung in there the whole match. I made a nice birdie there on 12 and just tried to play my game; hit greens and make pars. I can’t overpower anything. I’m a club or two short with my irons right now.”
* “Then he missed a short one on 14, so I went 2-up and I was just trying to hang on from there and make pars. I was sloppy on 15 and made a bogey and then we just hung on. I don’t know how we hung on.”

**Jeff Wilson (def. Stan Humphries, 3 and 2)**

(on the round)

* "It was blowing really hard and there was no bad par. That's the way I played. I think the only real mistake I made was 13. I just kept making pars, and a lot of them were tough pars. I think I was 2-over for the day, which wasn't that bad. It was just hard out there."

**Miles McConnell (def. Jerry Gunthorpe, 19 holes)**

(on the round)

* "I really just feel like I stole one there. The match was pretty much over. He gave me 17, he hit a bad shot and hit another bad shot on 18. I'm just very fortunate to win. I wasn't hitting the ball well today. I tried to hang in there, just kept saying 'you never know what happens.'"

(on advancing to the Round of 32)

* "I just hope I hit it better tomorrow. Keep doing the same things that I've been doing all week. I hit the ball very nicely in the stroke play rounds, and today I just couldn't get comfortable. I feel like I'm on borrowed time here after this victory."