U.S. Junior Amateur
Monday, July 24, 2023
Daniel Island Club, Ralston Creek Course
Charleston, S.C.

Rowan Sullivan, Charleston, S.C.
2-under 70

Q. Let’s start with the morning. What was it like hitting the first ball of the championship?

[ROWAN SULLIVAN]: It was really special. It meant a lot. I didn’t expect to care about that as much as I did. As soon as my name was called, it really hit me that this was my final junior tournament and that I was hitting the first tee shot of the U.S. Junior.

Maybe that explains why I went a little left into the bunker, but I did hit a great shot out of the bunker and got out to a good start.

Q. It sounded like you drove it into a bunker a number of times off the tee and were able to recover well on a lot of holes.

[ROWAN SULLIVAN]: I probably hit it into a bunker on eight or nine holes off the tee. I guess that was my happy spot. You’d rather be in a bunker than be in the rough. I was able to get away with some bad drives that would have gone in the rough but luckily ended up in a bunker.

With these bunkers, you’re not dealing with heavy sand so it’s easy to hit those longer shots that you need to hit. It was a mix of good fortune and being able to miss in the right spots.

Q. Our scoring system online had you hitting 18 for 18 greens in regulation. Is that right?

[ROWAN SULLIVAN]: I did hit every green. It was money today. That’s my first round that I’ve ever hit 18 greens in a row. That’s something that every good golfer wishes to accomplish. It was so sick. I didn’t even realize it until you said that.

I felt like I missed maybe one out there, but now that you say that I really don’t think I did.

Q. Talk me through the birdies on 1, 14 & 18

[ROWAN SULLIVAN]: [Hole] 14 was my best birdie of the day for sure. I hit a 3-wood off the tee. Kind of a conservative play. It was 159 in and I hit a 9-iron a little into the wind. I left it woefully short and then made a 45-foot putt up and around the hill, and it was perfect the whole way. So that was really gratifying to hit.

Then [hole] 1 was left off the tee. Hit out of the bunker to 3 feet and made that. And then [hole] 18 was a perfect driver down the middle. I laid up to 100 yards exactly actually, and then hit a chippy 56 to 3 feet and made it.

Q. How were the conditions out there this morning?

[ROWAN SULLIVAN]: Playing early is always an advantage. I feel like I was able to take advantage of the softer conditions.

When it’s that wet after this much rain, you know that you don’t want to miss a fairway because the rough is wet, but you also want to take advantage of those softer conditions on the green. I think I did a good job of that.