

U.S. Mid-Amateur

Monday, Sept. 11, 2023
Fenway Golf Club
Scarsdale, N.Y.

**Brad Tilley,
Easton, Conn.**

**1-over-par 71 (second round, stroke play)
Championship – 71-71--142 (1 over)**



Q. A little too close for comfort in terms of making the cut?

Brad Tilley: “I wasn’t trying to think about the cutline today. This is a really tricky course. When you look at the card, you know there are a lot of birdies out there, but there’s trouble waiting around every corner, so I tried to do the best I could on every shot. And if I was below the cut or not, that’s just what it was going to be. I had a feeling with the favorable conditions this morning, the cut might be lower. I had that [6-foot] par putt there to shoot 1 over, and I thought I needed it.”

Q. Talk about getting off to the bogey-bogey start?

Tilley: “Starting on 10 and 11, you have two of the harder holes on the course. You hate to start bogey-bogey. But I had to tell myself that those are two of the holes many people are going to bogey out here. When it happens in the middle of your round, it’s a little easier to digest. Starting that way, you feel like you are behind the 8-ball. I didn’t hit my best shot into 12, but I was able to make a [critical] up and down [for par], which kind of got me going for the day.”

Q. And then after making two birdies on 1 and 3, you got it going in the right direction?

Tilley: “You’ve got to get 1 and 3 out here. You’ve got to take advantage of your birdie opportunities at Fenway or you are behind the 8-ball for sure.”

Q. How about not hitting a single shot on Sunday due to the weather delays?

Tilley: “Weird. Roamed around the house. Read the book that they gave us [as a player gift], The Awakening of Sleepy Hollow. My uncle (Pete Tilley) was in town. I don’t get a chance to spend a lot of time with him (lives outside of Denver). Had a nice dinner with my dad. Tried to kill some time. Watched the US Open tennis (men’s singles final). [My uncle] was hoping I would make the U.S. Amateur [at Cherry Hills] and I messed that up for him. So he drove from Denver to watch me play. He watched me play at Sleepy [on Saturday], but he didn’t today because [my time] got pushed back [to Monday], so he’s headed back. I thought it was funny, too, but he loves to drive.”

Q. Are you relieved to be done with stroke play and into the draw at Sleepy Hollow?

Tilley: “It’s relief, but you know you’re going to have tough opponents. We have a great field. Mid-Am golf is doing really well. I’ve just got to go enjoy it and see if I can play my normal game out at Sleepy. I think I was a little reserved the last two [stroke-play] rounds, trying to make sure I got into match play. I played it like a true USGA championship and kept it around par. That’s always a good thing. I’m really thrilled to be getting an opportunity in match play.”

Note – Longtime member at Sleepy Hollow

Won Westchester Open in 2022 at Sleepy and the MGA Amateur at Fenway in 2022

Reinstated amateur

Medalist in Mid-Am in 2017; lost to eventual champion Matt Parziale