

U.S. Mid-Amateur

Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2023
Sleepy Hollow Country Club
Scarborough, N.Y.

**Joe Deraney,
Tupelo, Miss.**

**Round of 32 – def. Nate Gahman, 4 and 3
Round of 64 – def. Phil Arci, 1 up**



Q. You got off to a great start in this match with four birdies on the first nine and a 5-up lead?

Joe Deraney: “I played good. I got 5 up. Made a really good putt on 9 [from 15 feet] for birdie, but on eight, I hit it short left and was in the thick rough with a short-sided angle. I hit this flop shot and it was going to go to a foot and it just decided to go in the hole [for birdie]. I won the hole when I kind of figured I was going to lose it. Then he started making some birdies on the back nine and I got a little fatigued. I hit a real, good quality shot into 14 to about 2 feet. I had 175 [yards] and hit a nice 8-iron in there. Played solid. Hit only one or two bad shots.”

Q. You come here fresh off a third Canadian Mid-Am title. Could you feel that momentum?

Deraney: “The Canadian Mid is nice because it is four rounds of stroke play, so after you’re done, regardless of how you pay, you’ve got plenty of [competitive] reps in. And yes I felt pretty good. I went and got a tuneup with [instructor] VJ Trolio [at Old Waverly]. So I felt like I was swinging pretty good.”

Q. What did you specifically work on with VJ?

Deraney: “For me, I always feel like I bring the pelvis towards the ball and the hands kind of go out. Just some mechanical stuff. But I’ve been doing it since I was 16 so it was pretty easy to clean up. But I putted much better than I did [in stroke play]. No three-putts today.”

Q. Still a stay-at-home dad?

Deraney: “Yep. I’ve got a 9-year-old boy, a 7-year-old girl and a 6-year-old girl that turned 6 last Thursday. She’s in kindergarten now. Probably have one more year of that and then find something to get into. My kids all have soccer, there’s dance and there’s ballet. Mid-Am is fun but it also takes a lot of time away from everything.”

Note – Runner-up in 2019 to Lukas Michel
Has won three Canadian Mid-Ams, including 2023
Won 2023 Mississippi Amateur