

# U.S. Mid-Amateur

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

**Mark Costanza,  
Morristown, N.J.**

**Round of 32 – lost to Stewart Hagestad, 2 and 1  
Round of 64 – def. Josh Persons, 1 up**



## **Q. Can you tell us about your birdie-birdie finish to win your morning match?**

Mark Costanza: “It was a grind. I was down 3 early. Josh (Persons) made a couple of mistakes and then I got it to even. On 17 I hit a great shot in there. 18 was kind of crazy. I hit a great shot in there, I couldn’t see it from the fairway but I knew it was good. He hit one in there and got some applause. We walked up and it was a gimme. It forced me to make it and luckily I did. I was happy not to go to extra holes there.”

## **Q. What were you thinking when you walked to the tee against Stewart Hagestad in the afternoon?**

Mark Costanza: “You see the draw before you even play the first match. You think that you might match up again. There is certainly a revenge factor that I was seeking. I was ready to play. I played great. I think I can hold my head up high. I was 5 under with no bogeys and he just beat me. He’s a great champion.”

## **Q. Besides scoring what did you do well overall?**

Mark Costanza: “I hit well and drove it well which I think makes this course a lot easier if you are in the fairway. There is really only two putts that I can say I would like to have those back. One was a 12-footer up the hill on [No.] 9 that I left right in the heart, just short. The other one was on the par 5 (No. 12). I had a tough lie but I hit a pretty good chip and missed a 4½-footer.”

## **Q. How was he able to overcome your good play?**

Mark Costanza: “He made birdies. He is tough but you know he is got going to make a lot of mistakes. If you go into a match thinking you are going to get a couple of freebies, if you do, you should go play the lottery.”

**Notes** – Costanza’s afternoon match with Stewart Hagestad was a rematch of the 2021 U.S. Mid-Amateur final at Sankaty Head Golf Club. In the morning, Costanza hit a 95-yard approach to within 4 feet on No. 17 and made a 9-foot birdie putt to clinch the victory on No. 18.