

U.S. Mid-Amateur

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



Stewart Hagestad, Newport Beach, Calif.

Round of 32 – def. Mark Costanza, 2 and 1

Round of 64 – def. Matt Van Zandt, 5 and 3

Q. Another epic match between the two of you with four holes halved with birdies?

Stewart Hagestad: “He’s really good. And he’s really capable of bringing it when he needs to.”

Q. Did you close him out with a birdie on 17?

Stewart Hagestad: “I did. ... Hit a little lob wedge. I think my number was 82 [yards]. (Putt was 2 feet, putted it). He made 4 and I made it.”

Q. Rematch turned out almost as well as the original in the final two years ago?

Stewart Hagestad: “I knew he would be a bit more prepared for this one...It’s not the finals, but at the same time, he knows that he is one of the better players in the field, and he’s very capable of making a deep run. I think maybe in the last few years he’s realized just how good he is. He’s got a ton of horsepower. He’s got a lot of speed. He wedges it nice. He hits it great. He putts it nice. Before we went off, I tried to collect myself because I knew it was going to be a good one.

“You know when you go play a guy like him, he’s going to bring it.”

Q. Tomorrow, you get the Walker Cup Captain’s son, Nate McCoy?

Stewart Hagestad: “I had a feeling that was coming. Nate’s really good. We’ve played a handful of different things together. I know that Mikey will be out there. He’s obviously going to be rooting for his son. But at the same time, he’s another one of those guys – Nate – who can bring it and really capable of making a bunch of birdies and playing well. We’re going to have to recover appropriately and do it again tomorrow.”

Q. How are feeling physically after last week’s Walker Cup and now the Mid-Am?

Stewart Hagestad: “I was doing OK in that [match with Costanza] because I think adrenaline took over. You know that Mark is a stud. Of course, you are a little tired, but at the same time, I didn’t think about it quite as much. You are kind of reacting to what he does and there were a lot of great shots out there. Again, I will just try to drink a bunch of water and recover appropriately.”

Q. Those are the kind of matches that elite competitors kind of relish, correct?

Stewart Hagestad: For sure. That’s why you practice. Let’s be clear, every person in the field would take 6 and 5 over 1 up, 2 up, 2 and 1. Good, bad or otherwise, you can take different pieces of information, positives and negatives, and think back to different situations. If you would ask me right now if that was fun, I would say yes, and if you ask Mark the same question, he probably would say it stinks.”