

U.S. Senior Amateur

Saturday, Aug. 26, 2023
Martis Camp Club
Truckee, Calif.

Mark Sear,
Los Angeles, Calif.
2-over 74 (first round, stroke play)



Q. Give me your thoughts, as a Martis Camp member, of hitting the first ball of the championship?

Sear: "That was scary. I yanked it straight left and I hit a tree, and it bounced back in the fairway. And I made a par. My mom passed away a number of years ago and I said, 'Thanks mom.' It was so lucky."

Q. What have you seen from the golf course that is different for this championship than regular play or a club championship?

Sear: "It's significantly different. The course is firming up a lot. We're going to get a ton of distance off the tee now, so that's a little unique. The big change is the rough. It's unbearably deep. I hit it in the rough twice on the front nine and because I am wearing tennis shoes, they were soaked to the bone. I barely got [my ball] out both times."

Q. What about your decision to have a caddie and walk versus riding?

Sear: "That's my nephew-caddie [Ryan Sear] over there who said, let's walk. I'm fine. I am in good shape. I managed it. I've never walked [the course] in my life. Never once until today. I've never had a caddie either, though. I am always in a cart."

Q. How about having a nice gallery of members and family to watch you play?

Sear: "It's been great. My dad is out here. My brother and sister-in-law came out. My cousin, John, is here. And a bunch of my friends from Martis Camp are here. I've got tons of nice emails and texts. It's kind of made it harder for me. I was really nervous on the front nine. I birdied two, which helped a lot. I just felt like a different person after that because I was so nervous on [Hole] 1. It was crippling. I have played a lot of competitive amateur golf for years, but I am just starting to get back into it. I've never felt like I did today on the first hole."