

U.S. Senior Amateur

Tuesday, Aug. 29, 2023
Martis Camp Club
Truckee, Calif.

Joe Palmer
Norwalk, Iowa

Round of 16
def. Randy Haag, 1 up
Round of 32
def. David Hayes, 4 and 3



Q. Quite an up and down for par out of that greenside bunker on 18?

Palmer: "I had a little bit of raked sand in front of me, so I just didn't know [how my ball would react]. I was telling these guys (one being fellow Iowan and 2021 champion Gene Elliott) you just got to make it, and then make him make it. And it went in. I was down 2 with three left and won the last three. Match play. It's happened to me."

Q. What does that say about your mental fortitude?

Palmer: "A lot of my friends call me 'The Grinder.' It's what you do. It's why I enjoy match play. I grinded it out and we're going on. I'm excited."

First time Palmer has advanced to quarterfinals in five Senior Amateurs

Q. What do you think was the difference today?

Palmer: "Playing with a good friend (Randy Haag) makes it easy. He played well. He got off to a hot start. Birdie-eagle, just kick-ins [on Nos. 3 and 4]. And I just had to hang in there. I knew he wasn't go away with his short game. Both of us didn't hit the kind of shots we wanted into 18. I just got lucky [to make a 25-footer]. Golf is a little bit of that."

Has a USA Walker Cup ball marker in his pocket all week for good luck. Friend and fellow Iowan Mike McCoy is the captain.