

U.S. Senior Amateur

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

Mike Finster,
Saint Petersburg, Fla.
2-under 70 (first round, stroke play)



Q. Only two scores at 70 today and you're one of them?

Finster: "It is such a gem. The fairways are wide enough, but now they're starting to dry out so you are getting some of the run-out. For instance, here on 18, I hit almost a 400-yard drive into the rough. I got a putting tip halfway through the round from my brother/caddie Casey, which helped me because I was a little nervy early in the round and he told me just to move it up in your stance a little bit. That was the key."

Q. Was there a key hole?

Finster: "I am fortunate that I hit a high ball. With this altitude, I am getting the full distance of at least 10 percent. We were really fortunate to have an afternoon tee time. Tomorrow will be a different story with the cooler morning temperatures. Kudos all the folks at Martis Camp. What an amazing venue."

First U.S. Senior Amateur
Five U.S. Senior Opens

Didn't play the last couple of years due to family vacations and commitments

With the WAGR, I was exempt.

Five kids get in the way of golf

Northwestern (Played with Jim Benepe and Fran Quinn)

Q. Any strategy for Sunday?

Finster: Just to get it to match play. That's the only goal. There's no brownie points [in stroke play]. And anybody can beat anybody on a given day. So let's just get to Monday.

Two consecutive birdies on 15 and 16. Two-putt birdie on the par-5 15th and nearly drove green on 309-yard 16th hole and chipped to 8 feet for last birdie.