U.S. Women’s Mid-Amateur
Saturday, Sept. 9, 2023
Stonewall, North Course
Elverson, Pa.

Courtney Dow
Frisco, Texas
7-under 64 (first round, stroke play)

Q. Seemed like you were playing a different course than the other competitors out there today. How do you feel breaking a course and championship record?

Cortney Dow: “I saved myself with some good putts on the front nine to get it going. My ball-striking wasn’t great. I missed a couple fairways but was able to save myself with a putter a lot today.”

“I made three birdie putts outside 15 feet, so my speed was good on the greens. They’re fast and undulating so I just tried to focus on leaving myself tap-ins as much as I could and got lucky on a few holes.”

Q. Talk about the finishing stretch here with the birdies on 7, 8 and 9.

Courtney Dow: “I knew I had some good par-5’s at the end because I was starting on [hole] 10 today. So if I could get through the first nine, I would have some scoring chances towards the end. I missed the fairway on both par 5’s and ended up having to birdie them differently than I thought I might. I laid up to a good wedge number and was able to recover with good wedges in.”

“Then on No. 9 I hit it to 18 feet and made that last one.”

Q. After seeing the scores from the morning, was there a score you were targeting this afternoon or one you thought you could reach while you were playing?

Courtney Dow: “I was just trying to play in groups of three [holes] and keep it in par every three holes. I knew I had some birdies out there. With not practicing as much as I used to, I knew I would probably make some mistakes and some bogeys too, which happened, but figured if I could just net neutral and take advantage of the par 5’s then I could maybe get a few under par.”

Q. What about your first nine. Another four birdies there.

Courtney Dow: “Good combos of making some long putts, 18-footer, 20-something footer, and a couple short ones. Birdied it a lot of different ways today and got it done.”

Q. You’ve played in USGA championships before, but this is your Mid-Am debut. How does it feel to get off to such a hot start?

Courtney Dow: “It’s fun. I love the mid-am attitude towards golf. Everybody has jobs now and nobody’s doing this every day, so it’s fun to play more relaxed with people that are just here for a good time, but still competitive and still have those same commonalities and same spirit, but all just at a different phase of life now.”

Q. How much have you been playing this summer?

Courtney Dow: “I got married this summer, so I took a good while off and then about a month ago started getting ready for my qualifier for this.”