**2021 U.S. Mid-Amateur Championship**

**Saturday, Sept. 25, First Round, Sankaty Head Golf Club and Miacomet Golf Course**

**Garrett Rank, Canada – (66, 4-under, Sankaty Head Golf Club)**

There was a delay before we teed off and then we were delayed on the first green. Couple of long delays through the day; I’ve dealt with it before and you know there’s the potential for it; nothing you can really control. Easier said than done, though. (laughs)

On the round: I made eight birdies, as well as a couple too many mistakes that I would like back, but you can’t be too disappointed when you make eight birdies in a USGA championship. I hit some really solid shots and made a couple of nice putts; I was really happy with the round today.

{similarities to 2018 U.S. Open at Shinnecock?}: Shinnecock was cool. The courses are kind of similar, they’re both linksy, and you roll it on the ground a little more than you typically would back home. Just learn little things here and there that you try and use to your advantage.

State of his game coming in: Game has been really good, had a couple of nice results this summer, although I didn’t play as much as I usually do in terms of tournaments, but I played a lot of golf. Was at [NHL] training camp last week so I didn’t get a chance to play a lot of golf leading up to this, but maybe that’s a good thing. Sometimes you can come into an event like this and overplay a little bit. To come here and potentially play eight or nine rounds of golf in a short period of time, a day like today is a long day, so it’s probably good to come in rested.

USGA: I like coming to events like this that place a premium on driving the ball; I feel like I’m a good driver of the ball. Drove it in play for the most part today and took advantage of the opportunities where I could. It’s easy to play at your home course and shoot a good score every day, but you like to come here where it’s really tough and it’s nice to put a round together.

[On getting ready for the NHL season and competing here]: My body’s a little sore from training camp, I put in five pretty hard weeks after the U.S. Am, getting on the ice and in the gym, getting ready for the season. The season starts on Oct. 2, so it will be right from this to there. Still, it’s good to have a clear mind out here, enjoying the fact that I’m able to play because usually there is a conflict with this event and with hockey. I’m really lucky to be doing both things at a really high level and really enjoy doing them both, especially at a beautiful place like this.