**2022 U.S. Junior Amateur Championship**

**Monday, July 25, First Round, Stroke Play,**

**Bandon Dunes Golf Resort (Bandon Dunes course & Bandon Trails course)**

**Grant Lester, Washington, D.C. – (66, 5-under, Bandon Trails course)**

(on shooting 66 in first USGA championship)

“That’s my best round to par and best in a tournament as well. I got off to a really hot start and kept it going throughout the round.”

(on his nerves)

“I wasn’t as nervous as I expected. My [Bandon Dunes] caddie did a really good job of keeping me calm the whole day. Obviously it’s the U.S. Junior Amateur, but I can’t be thinking, ‘Oh my god, I’m playing in a national championship.’ I’ve just got to treat it like any other round of golf.”

(on point in round where you throught it was going to be a good day)

“On No. 1 (10th hole of the day), I made a 20-footer for birdie to go 4 under. I had a good feeling. I made every putt I looked at today. Ball-striking was good but that is not what made me shoot 5 under. On hole 8, my 17th of the round, I hit it to like 60 feet and then had to make an 8-footer for par. Center cut. Kept the momentum.”

My bogeyed the short par 3. My 15th hole. Hole 6. First bogey of the day. On the next hole, I hit it to like 10 feet and I told my caddie, I’m getting [this round] to 6 under. I got out of the mindset of limiting the damage to going as low as I can.

Given that the scores are pretty low so far, I am going to try and do the same things I did today. Get a couple under. During my practice rounds, I thought the cut would be a pretty high number just because how windy it was.”

(on never playing links golf)

“During my practice rounds, it just didn’t feel like I was playing golf out there. I hit a driver short of a par 3. I cruise at like 117 miles-per-hour clubhead speed. I don’t normally hit drivers into par-3s, let alone leave them short. I was a little scared just because I thought I would have two tough days ahead of me, but the wind calmed down.”

(on ease after good round)

“A little bit. Just knowing that I am in a good spot going into tomorrow. Rising high school senior. Not committed anywhere. Looking at a couple of Ivy League schools.”