**U.S. Junior Amateur Championship**

**Monday, July 19, First Round, The Country Club of North Carolina**

**NATHAN SAMPSON, Temecula, Calif. (67, -5, Dogwood Course)**

(about a bogey-free round)

It felt great. I didn’t hit the ball too well on the front nine for the most part. I missed most of the greens and fairways but scrambled around pretty well. I made a lot of putts and saw the reads on the greens pretty well.

(about consecutive birdies on holes 1 thru 3 … his back nine)

I just started to feel the swing a lot more. I started to hit where I was aiming. Just made a lot of putts and reading them well.

(on making a 50-foot birdie putt on No. 2)

It was a good thing it hit the flag or else it would have run all the way down the green.

(about it possibly being his break-out moment)

Starting to play very consistent. Just getting really comfortable with the swing lately. I made a couple of changes, making a smoother transition and getting a lot more consistent.

(atmosphere in his first USGA championship)

The USGA tries to keep it pretty light and very comfortable for the players. It’s definitely the biggest event I have ever played in. But I am just trying to stay calm and treat it like any other event.