39th U.S. MID-AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP – Player Quotes

Sept. 14-19, 2019, Colorado Golf Club, Parker, Colo., and CommonGround Golf Course, Aurora, Colo.

Drew Kittleson, Scottsdale, Ariz.
(4-under 66, CommonGround Golf Course)

On his opening round today…
"I didn't make any bogeys. I only missed one green, so that was good. The course is pretty soft, so it was fine. I did everything fine. Nothing fantastic. Nothing bad. So it was all good."

"The course is beautiful. CGC is awesome too. I think that with the weather that we have, I mean there's no wind or anything and it's soft, so there's plenty of birdies out there."

On his eagle on the par-5 7th…
"I hit a 7-iron in there, it was from the rough. Hit it in there to about 20 feet and just kind of snuck it in there on the putt."

On how playing in the Mid-Am feels compared to U.S. Amateurs and U.S Junior Ams…
"[My caddie and I] were just talking about it. I've never played in one, so I don't know what to think really. I'm a mid-am, I work, I have a family and stuff, so it's different. But the U.S. Am, the quality of the field is a lot better. Not a knock on this field, it's just the reality. College kids that play golf every day are better than us."

On experience in USGA events in the past including 2008 U.S. Amateur runner-up…
"Yeah, gosh I've played in I don't know how many USGA events, but a lot. So just the fact that I've played in so many and I've made match play so many times, it helps a lot."

"I get the feeling that a lot of people are just excited to be here. If you're excited to be here, you're going to get killed. You shouldn't just be excited to be here, you should be trying to win. I could shoot 100 tomorrow and be fine too, but some of the people come out here and are hoping instead of actually playing to win."

On his decision to try and qualify for his first U.S Mid-Am this year after his friends said he couldn't do it…
"Every single one of my friends are against me. They don't think I can do it. They think I'm washed up. They think I'm terrible. And they text me that. I've got to overcome a bunch of obstacles."