

**2022 U.S. Mid-Amateur Championship
Saturday, Sept. 10, First Round, Stroke Play,
Erin Hills and Blue Mound Golf & Country Club**

Dalton Melnyk, Atlanta, Ga. – (65, 6-under, Erin Hills)

(on his bogey-free round)

“It says I made a lot of par putts. It was a shaky start but I made a great curling 10-footer for par on 10 (his first hole) and had an up-and-down on 11. My first good swing was on 14 and I was able to make a birdie and then, gosh, I made a 20-footer for par on 16; it was a mental birdie.”

(on making par on No. 18, his ninth hole)

“I hit it too good off the tee and was in the first bunker and had just an awkward lie and just chunked it into the next bunker. I wedge out and then hit probably my best shot of the day. I hit a pitching wedge (145 yards) that rode the wind and curled up to 8 feet and that felt like a mental eagle.”

(on his three consecutive birdies on 5, 6 and 7)

“I hit a sand wedge to 12 feet below the hole and it was a pretty straight-forward putt. On 6, I hit a 6-iron exactly like I wanted and didn’t get it all the way back there. I was trying to lag it in from 30 feet and it fell over the front. And then 7 I hit the most perfect 3-iron from the fairway that I can hit, about pin high, and then two putts.”

(on how playing in three previous USGA championships helps)

“It’s just golf. I know how to play in golf tournaments, I know how to play well in golf tournaments. Whether it has a USGA in front of it or a Georgia State Golf Association in front of it or something else, it’s just a golf tournament and I know how to do that. There is some intimidation at first, I felt overwhelmed in my previous experiences. I felt like I belonged in 2019 (Mid-Amateur) and I know I belong this year.”

(on having a father and brother who have played in USGA championships)

“Everyone here is acting like it is Christmas morning, everyone is so excited to be here. But you have to put the peg in the ground and just go play golf. If anything it kind of normalizes it more knowing that my dad (Steve) and brother (Butler) have both played in these and had success.

(on how he will approach the second round of stroke play)

“I want to go play as hard as I can. Any other golf tournament you are trying to go win so that’s going to be my mentality tomorrow. That’s what I know how to do, if I stop doing that I am going to be doing something that I am not familiar with.”