

**2022 U.S. Mid-Amateur Championship
Monday, Sept. 12, Second Round, Stroke Play,
Erin Hills and Blue Mound Golf & Country Club**

Sam Jones, of New Zealand – (67 BM-67 EH – 7-under 134)

(on why he is on top of leaderboard in his first USGA championship)

“I have been hitting it pretty good. My driver has been going nice and straight and it was pretty benign out there today. It’s nice and soft out there and I was hitting it close and making a few putts.”

(on why he was playing well and had six birdies)

“[[It] was just getting the driver in play. I hit a lot of fairways, was hitting wedges in, and was hitting it relatively close, inside of 10 feet for my birdies.

“My best one was on No. 6, the long par 3. I hit a good 5-iron in there from 217 and hit to 12 feet and rolled that one in so that was nice.”

(on his recent play)

“I haven’t been playing very well to be honest with you. In my head I was thinking I could shoot 4-over and still make it. I knew if I played like I did (on Saturday) today I would be just fine. And sure enough the ball was still coming out pretty nice. Hopefully that continues for the rest of the week.”

(on playing in New Zealand)

“We have a pretty little country course down there. Manaia is the name of it. It’s 6,000 yards long and we’ve got one greenkeeper that works up to 40 hours a week. Humble beginnings I guess, but playing on a track like this is amazing.”

(on does winning New Zealand’s Amateur and Stroke Play events help him here)

“Just confidence I guess. I’ve always been pretty handy at match play. I used to hit the driver a little bit further and little bit more crooked so match play may set me up a little better than stroke play. But I definitely have reined in it over the last few years. I do like match play so I am looking forward to that.”