

U.S. Mid-Amateur

Monday, Sept. 11, 2023
Sleepy Hollow Golf Club
Scarborough, N.Y.



Jeronimo Esteve, Puerto Rico

3-under-par 68 (second round, stroke play)
Championship – 67-68—135 (6 under)

Q. How do you feel about the possibility of being the stroke-play medalist?

Jeronimo Esteve: “It’s amazing. It certainly wasn’t my intention this week. My goal was to make match play and make a deep run. I have made match play several times before and haven’t really done it. I worked really hard getting ready for this tournament, so it is affirmation of the work I have put in. I really like the golf course and I am playing well.”

Q. What are you doing well this week?

Jeronimo Esteve: “Honestly, I am just hitting the ball really well. I am controlling my flight and controlling my spin. I am keeping the ball in front of me. I really didn’t hit many loose shots, really good with the irons. Where they put the pins I was really patient on a lot of holes. I took pars when they were there. When I was able to make birdie I took a chance at it. I have been thinking clearly and my iron game is strong.”

Q. Can you talk about the start of your round?

Jeronimo Esteve: “It was brutal yesterday. We wait all day and then we had a delay. And then they had us out to the 10th tee 30 minutes early. I am sitting there with the water and the pressure. I was super nervous over that tee ball. I hit that ball so quickly, I wanted to make sure I hit the little ball before the big ball. I pulled it a little bit and left myself 8 feet for par and made it, which was huge. And then on my second [hole] I played it well but left myself 8 feet for par again and made it. That was humongous for me because I could have really gone the other way.”

Q. The challenge of coming back this morning to finish your round?

Jeronimo Esteve: “I didn’t sleep last night. We stopped on [No.] 6 tee. Honestly I didn’t sleep very well just thinking about that tee ball. In the practice round I had some bad advice and I hit in the trees, it was just a disaster. So to get up there, I smoked that ball, hit in the middle of the fairway and set up a pretty easy birdie. That settled me down again.”

Notes – Jeronimo Esteve is playing in his eighth U.S. Mid-Amateur and has advanced to match play three times. In the second round, he birdied holes 12, 14 and 15. His 5-wood second shot on the par-5 12th started the run. He hit a pitching wedge 6 feet past the hole on No. 14. His two-putt birdie on No. 15 was set up by his second shot, a knock-down 6-iron.