

# U.S. Mid-Amateur

Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2023  
Sleepy Hollow Golf Club  
Scarborough, N.Y.



**Stephen Behr Jr.,  
Atlanta, Ga.**

**Round of 32 – def. Kevin Grady, 3 and 2**

**Round of 64 – def. Alejandro Villavicencio, 1 up**

## **Q. Par was your friend today. Can you tell us about all those winning pars you made?**

Stephen Behr: “It’s kind of my MO (modus operandi). I pride myself on being steady and hanging in there hard. Grinding it out. I try not to give anyone freebies. If anyone beats me, I want them to beat me. I don’t want to give it to them.”

## **Q. What turned this afternoon’s match around?**

Stephen Behr: “He started getting into a rhythm. He got up early. I was trying to stretch my lead and he just started playing phenomenal golf. I got a little more serious and tried to change the vibe mentally and get in my own zone on the back nine.”

## **Q. Were any of those winning pars exceptional?**

Stephen Behr: “The biggest key was actually a par on 13 [that tied the hole]. I drove it in the bunker and had an awkward stance and left it in the bunker. It was a bad miscue on my part. [I] needed to just get it up there on the green and got too cute with it and left it in the bunker. [I] hit my second one to about 8 feet and I made that to halve the hole. That was key. If I miss that putt who knows how the match would have ended up.”

## **Q. How does making the Round of 16 previously help you this time?**

Stephen Behr: “My match this morning was very similar to the match I lost in Charlotte in 2018. It was kind of eerie. It was the same shot, my opponent was in the same position, and I always regretted how I handled it. Today I had an opportunity to take one club more, swing smooth and I hit a good one in there. It felt really good. So I learned a lot from that experience to win my match this morning.

“And then to duke it out with Stew (Stewart Hagestad) at Sankaty (Head) in the Round of 16 and playing great golf against him just lets me know that when I play well I have the game to win this thing.”

**Notes** – Behr advanced to the U.S. Mid-Amateur’s Round of 16 in 2018 and 2021. He was the championship’s stroke-play medalist in 2018. In the Round of 64 this morning, his winning par on No. 18 was set up by an 180-yard, 6-iron approach that landed 20 feet past the hole. He two-putted for par.