

U.S. Amateur

Monday, Aug. 12, 2024
Hazeltine National Golf Club
Chaska Town Course

Cooper Claycomb, Bowling Green, Ky. 4-under 66 (first round, stroke play)



Q. 4-under round, just one bogey. Not many mistakes out there?

Cooper Claycomb: Yeah, honestly I just hit the ball really well today. I was 14 for 14 in Greens in Regulations to start, so that always helps. Ball striking was really good and got a new putter, too. That was feeling hot, and I was staying confident.

Q. When did you make the switch to a new putter?

Cooper Claycomb: Three days ago.

Q. What prompted that?

Cooper Claycomb: I was traveling this summer, and I had a little putting 'whoopsie' and just didn't have a backup.

Q. A new putter three days before the U.S. Amateur, did that affect your confidence at all on the greens?

Cooper Claycomb: Honestly, no. My putting's been shaky all summer, it's just been uncomfortable. So trying to be comfortable in uncomfortable situations has really been the entire summer. You just have to stay confident, it's all mental, really.

Q. How does your score out here today affect your confidence?

Cooper Claycomb: Yeah that boosts it for sure. Obviously Hazeltine is going to be a tough track, so I'm going to scratch today – keep the ball striking and the putting confidence – but it's a whole different golf course and a whole different game plan.

Q. What's the biggest difference in terms of strategy for you as you head from Chaska to Hazeltine tomorrow?

Cooper Claycomb: Here it's a little shorter, so you can miss a little bit. The front nine here is very gettable. Hazeltine's just a dogtrack, though. You have to hit every shot correct. So I'm just going to go out there and try and hit as many fairways as I can, I think fairways there are just super important. Just try and do what I did today.