

# U.S. Amateur

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

## James Ashfield, Wales

3-under 69 (first round, stroke play)



### **Q. Are you just playing amateur golf right now?**

James Ashfield: “Just play all around Europe. British Am, European Amateur, St. Andrews Links Trophy.”

### **Q. How good was your 69 today?**

James Ashfield: “I played real good to be fair. I think I only really missed one green on 18. I knew there was a lot of importance on hitting greens and fairways. The rough is pretty brutal out there. I managed to do that, and putted quite well as well.”

### **Q. You had the one double, what happened on the 10th hole?**

James Ashfield: “I tried to be a little too fancy. Tried to fly a 2-iron down there, and flat-hooked it...Tried to punch one under a tree and came up short. Three-whacked it from like 40 feet.”

### **Q. The last time the U.S. Amateur was here a fellow Brit, Richie Ramsay from Scotland, won it. Any good vibes?**

James Ashfield: “Hopefully I can follow it. That would be fun. I think Rhys Davies, one of the Welsh boys, was in it as well.”

### **Q. How does this course compare to anything you play in Europe?**

James Ashfield: “You could say the greens are a little quicker than we normally play. Just the amount of land as well. I personally think it suits me a little better. A bit longer off the tee for me. A bit more mid-irons and short irons [into greens]. We don’t have to deal with a 20- or 30-mile-per-hour wind like we do back home. It’s good.”

### **Q. When did you get to the U.S.?**

James Ashfield: “It was a bit stressful [getting here]. We were supposed to come over Wednesday. Missed our connecting flight [in Dublin]. We came on Thursday. My caddie (Rich Galley) still does not have any clothes. I only got mine like two days ago. A bit of a nightmare coming over...I flew from Manchester [in England]. I used to live in Wales and I live 200 yards [from the border] in England...We had to go from Dublin to Minnesota the next day with Delta.”

### **Q. You have some tape on your wrist, precautionary?**

James Ashfield: “My nerves on not sitting in my groove properly. It’s a bit of a thing when I am playing golf. Get a shot of pain through it. Just trying to manage it...Two to three years now. At the moment it feels pretty good. I have had an MRI scan. Not sure what the problem is. Ice after rounds and [athletic] tape.”

**Note** – Ashfield is 23. Likely to turn pro this fall. Global Amateur Pathway now. Trying to have a solid week to gain status on the European Challenge Tour for 2025. 2-4 get Challenge. First place gets DP World Tour. Wenyi Ding is

leading the points race. Went to college for one season at Columbus State in Georgia. Then left when COVID hit and didn't return.