

# U.S. Amateur

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

**Nate Deziel,**  
**East Grand Forks, Minn.**  
12-over 84 (first round, stroke play)



**Q. You had the honor of hitting the opening tee shot as the reigning Minnesota Amateur champion, describe the emotions?**

Nate Deziel: “It was awesome. It’s something I have never experienced before. It was probably the best day of my life so far...You come out and play this golf course and it’s not easy. You hit what you think is a good shot and it turns out not to be. It’s a battle, but I sure had fun doing it.”

**Q. What has the lead-up to this championship been like after winning the Minnesota Amateur and getting the exemption?**

Deziel: “I had quite a few [friends and family following]. I think that’s really special. The last month of my life has been pretty awesome. Just enjoying every second of it.”

**Q. How many friends and family were here?**

Deziel: “I would say 35-40.”

**Q. How far do you live from Chaska?**

Deziel “About four hours. East Grand Forks is way up north towards the Canadian border...We had a couple of guys make the trek. Some of my friends, too, are from the [Twin] Cities area, so it’s a little easier commute. I had a couple of [ex-North Dakota State] teammates out there. Workers from back in the day. Lots of love and support out there.”

(NOTE: He is 24 years of age and had a current NDSU player on the bag, Ian Simonich, rising senior) He graduated from NDSU in 2023; First USGA championship