

# U.S. Amateur

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

**Paul Chang,**  
**People's Republic of China**  
6-under 64 (first round, stroke play)



## **Q. Six-under round that included an eagle. Can you walk through the round?**

Paul Chang: I hit it really well today, hit my irons really well. And I putted pretty decently, that's how I made my birdies. The driver wasn't working until 16 – 16 was my first really good drive, then 17 I hit another good one, and then 18 I hit it in the water. Didn't chip too much today...Three birdies, one eagle

## **Q. Can you talk about the eagle, a second one in two years on a par 4 and the 16th hole?**

Paul Chang: Yeah, that was 16 [at Cherry Hills in the Round of 16]. I just drove the green and made a 40-footer.

## **Q. Do you believe in déjà vu?**

Paul Chang: Not really. It's not the same thing.

## **Q. Pretty gettable hole?**

Paul Chang: It's pretty gettable – a lot of holes, you can definitely mess up if you don't hit it in the right spot, the rough is really long, tough to chip out of. It's really important to keep it in the short grass.

## **Q. Would you say that's the biggest challenge out here [at Chaska Town Course]?**

Paul Chang: Yeah, it's the rough. The greens are rolling fast, but they're decently soft. So the pins are still gettable.

## **Q. You seem to love playing in USGA events?**

Paul Chang: Yeah, I love it...Coming into this event, I definitely feel a little different...Last year, I didn't feel like I belonged here at all. I was just testing the waters. Don't know who's who. This year I was running into a lot of fellow players and saying hi. I really want to give it a good run this year.

## **Q. So a few guys know who Paul Chang is now?**

Paul Chang: I have made some new friends...I've run into Caden [Fioroni] a few times this summer. (Beat him at Cherry Hills last year). We're good friends, and he's a great player.

## **Q. How important was going low out here for you today?**

Paul Chang: "I'm sure everyone has that in mind (going low at Chaska Town Course). I was just one shot at a time and whatever comes comes...But I didn't think about that (going low) on every shot. It may have entered my mind in between shots when I was walking but never standing over a shot thinking I need to make something happen."

## **Q. Did you sense this kind of round coming?**

Paul Chang: Not really. I had missed two cuts in a row at the Western and Southern. So I'm just hoping to play better."

## **Q. What were your expectations or goals coming into the week, if any?**

Paul Chang: I don't really have any expectations – just taking it one shot at a time and see how far I go.

**Q. Six under is also the current clubhouse lead. Any thoughts there?**

Paul Chang: Oh wow, that feels good. Unfortunately, doesn't mean much until the end of tomorrow.