

# U.S. Amateur

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

## Luke Clanton, Hialeah, Fla.

1-under 69 (first round, stroke play)



### **Q. Busy last 24 hours?**

Clanton: Yeah, played 39 holes yesterday, and then flew out last night, made it here and played 18 today. It's been a challenge, but it's been fun. Never want to miss the U.S. Am – this was the biggest event on my calendar for sure. To be out here playing is pretty sweet.

### **Q. How was your rest and preparation coming into this morning?**

Clanton: It was okay. I got in around midnight and then went to bed around 1:30. But I woke up around 7:30 like usual and just watched some YouTube, did my thing, then came out here and played pretty good today. I think for me to shoot under par today was one of the better rounds of golf I've played all summer. Because, you know, I'm tired. I'm exhausted. Tonight I'm going to make sure I get a lot of rest and be ready for tomorrow.

### **Q. How much have you seen either of these courses before coming out here today?**

Clanton: Yeah, so I actually came out here during the 3M week. I came out here, played four holes, and then I kind of drove around. I'm not going to lie, it was a little trickier, because when I came out here the rough wasn't as high, the greens weren't as fast. I think it's actually pretty tricky out here. I think it was a tough challenge. Me, Jackson [Koivun] and Gordon [Sargent] played pretty good. It's pretty tough.

### **Q. And how familiar are you with Hazeltine?**

Clanton: I know Hazeltine's tough. It's tough, rough's tall and pretty tight. But you just go out there and strike the golf ball like you should, and you'll be alright.

### **Q. You mentioned having this championship circled on your calendar for a while. How much of a confidence booster has this summer been as you head into this week?**

Clanton: Yeah, playing on the PGA Tour is no joke. It's pretty fun. It's a big confidence booster going up and leading for a bit before coming into this event. A couple top-10 finishes on the PGA Tour is definitely what you want, and to be able to stay in that zone and come out here and shoot under par is pretty awesome.