

U.S. Amateur

Tuesday, Aug. 13, 2024
Hazeltine National Golf Club
Chaska Town Course

Gunnar Broin, Shorewood, Minn.

2-under 68 (second round, stroke play)



Q. How much of a factor did experience on these courses play for you these last two days?

Broin: It helped that I knew the courses. It helped a lot. I just kind of grinded my way out of Hazeltine – I tripled the first hole in the first round, so I was kind of battling back the whole rest of the 35 holes. But I hung in there nicely today – I made one mistake on the back 9, had a few putts drop down the stretch. And yeah, very happy with where I'm at.

Q. What was the mistake on the back?

Broin: I had 130 [yards] in and I pulled a gap wedge left. Made double bogey from the middle of the fairway with a wedge in my hand. So that wasn't great. Probably gave a couple of people a heart attack. But no, it was fine. I just got a little ahead of myself. After that I just tried to stay even-keeled, really just grind my way back and was able to birdie the last two holes. It might help, I have no clue. I haven't looked at the leader board all day.

Q. Yeah, looks like even could be right on the cut line. What would it mean to you to advance?

Broin: It would mean a lot just to get an opportunity to play in match play. I mean that's the whole goal for the week, right? But, you know, whatever happens, happens. At least I gave it a run there at the end and birdied the last two. Good or bad, it's exciting to be here, it's exciting to at least feel the pressure and this atmosphere.

Q. That triple on the first hole yesterday. Would you say that was you feeling some of that pressure?

Broin: It was absolutely pressure. It was all pressure. I couldn't really feel my arms. I don't really remember the first tee shot, to be honest with you. It was fine though, my caddie and I just kind of laughed and said, 'Okay, let's go.' And then I battled back and was able to play 1 under throughout the rest of the 17 holes, which was good. Just kept battling, that's what a U.S. Amateur's supposed to be. I had a lot of experience playing the U.S. Open this year, just battling, battling, put your head down and keep grinding. And I kind of just relied on the experience from that. It helped me there down the stretch to be able to pick up a few birdies.

Q. If you do advance to match play, how much of an advantage will the local knowledge be in that format? Any particular strategies you've thought about going in?

Broin: I can rely a lot on the local knowledge. I'm a caddie out there, and I know the course really well. Anything can happen in match play. Anything can happen, really. It's going to be nice no matter what or who I play. If I play the best player in the world the first match, it's going to be fun. Even if I lose, being in the moment and living the experience is it.