

U.S. Amateur

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



Jimmy Ellis,
Atlantic Beach, Fla.
9-under 61 (second round, stroke play)

Q. Great playing today. Your 61 today is the second-lowest 18-hole score in the history of this championship. What do you think about that?

Ellis: That's crazy. It's unbelievable. I'm sure the other guys that had scores like that were, you know, much bigger names than me, who's just a blind squirrel. I just made absolutely everything today. The greens were absolutely perfect speed. I don't know what happened, everything just went in.

Q. Was it just your putter? Were you hitting your irons close?

Ellis: Yeah, I putted awesome. I had real troubles yesterday, at least on the front 9 at Hazeltine, I putted horribly. Then, all of a sudden, the last few holes I started making some putts, and it just carried over to today.

Q. Do you think playing Hazeltine first, which was more than 5 strokes tougher than Chaska [Town Course] yesterday, helped you out coming into today?

Ellis: It definitely freed me up a little bit knowing that I had a little bit of a cushion, even though, you know, you look at the score board and you're in 48th place. It didn't feel like being tied for 48th, shooting under par at Hazeltine. I knew I was in a good spot going into today.

Q. Any big takeaways from Hazeltine you know you're going to be applying in match play?

Ellis: For sure. 14, there's no reason to hit it in the right bunker. 16 I can't hit it high enough to get over the trees, so I have to go left. But yeah, there's a few shots out there that definitely would like to have back from yesterday that hopefully I can pull off tomorrow.

Q. Yeah, and talking about differences like that in your game versus a few of the other players in this field, how does it feel going lowest out of this group of young talent?

Ellis: Yeah, it's funny. I mean, I'm old enough to be most of their dads. And yeah, they're hitting it probably 40 yards past me. But I'm just going to play my game and see what happens.

Q. What do you do outside of golf?

Ellis: I work in oil and gas. We buy mineral rights and royalties in western Pennsylvania, eastern Ohio and West Virginia.

