

# U.S. Amateur

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

## Leandro Mihaich, Argentina

6-under 67-69--142 (36 holes, stroke play)



### **Q. How good was 69 today on Hazeltine?**

Leandro Mihaich: “It’s a tough course, so it was nice...It’s one of the toughest ones I’ve played...I hit it pretty good from the tee box, so I was in the middle of the fairway all day. I’ve been hitting really good with my irons, so I have many chances for birdie...Yesterday I hit 17 [greens at Chaska Town Course] and today I probably hit 15 or 16.”

### **Q. Is ball striking typically your strength?**

Leandro Mihaich: “I would say yes. I haven’t putted really good yesterday and today, but I had many chances for birdie, and I didn’t have any three putts. That was really nice”

### **Q. Is this your first USGA championship?**

Leandro Mihaich: “Yes, first...I played the qualifier in Dallas, Texas. I won the qualifier with 5 under there...I [was exempt] from the local because of my WAGR. It’s 600, I think.”

### **Q. I guess you were the Nicklaus Award winner for NCAA Division II?**

Leandro Mihaich: “I got player of the year. I had just one win. I got the win at conference. Lone Star Conference. 9 top 10s out of 11. Worst finish was our own tournament (24<sup>th</sup>). Seven of my finishes were in the top 5. I finished 18<sup>th</sup> at nationals.”

### **Q. What were your expectations coming into this week?**

Leandro Mihaich: “I’ve been working really hard. Working on my swing and ball [striking]. I am just trying to hit it straight and make some putts.”

### **Q. See you are wearing a Memorial Tournament-logoed shirt. Did you play the event?**

Mihaich: “I didn’t play the tournament. Invited to attend and see the practice rounds. I was very nervous. I didn’t know how it was going to be [for all the Nicklaus Award winners]...I did [talk to Nicklaus]. He’s a nice guy. He come up to me and I say from Argentina, and he said, ‘Oh, I have some courses there.’ One of them is really close to my city. (Bell Ville).”

### **Q. Take us through the recruiting process. How did you get to Oklahoma?**

Mihaich: “When I was a junior, my English was really bad, so I took one year to study English after high school. One of my coaches, recruited me to Oklahoma City and then I have several friends from Argentina at Oklahoma Christian. Actually [my caddie Santiago Villareal] was the one who asked me to come. Let’s go. We play nationals at Oklahoma City and almost won conference. It was a pretty nice team for NAIA.”

**Note** – First attended Oklahoma City University, an NAIA school. Transferred after one season to Oklahoma Christian, where he is a rising junior.