

U.S. Amateur

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

Luke Clanton Hialeah, Fla.

2-under 70 (second round, stroke play)



Q. How are you holding up after 57 holes of golf in 72 hours?

Clanton: A lot of golf, but it's good. Again, I think it's just awesome to be here. We didn't know if we were going to make it here or not. To play the first two rounds and to play pretty good golf is really awesome.

Q. You've played a bunch of rounds now against PGA Tour guys. How close was this threesome, in terms of level of play these last two days, to what you've seen on Tour?

Clanton: I mean, Jackson and Gordon are amazing golfers. They always have been. You know, Gordon's that guy. When you see him playing, everyone is out there watching him. He's a phenomenal golfer. He's already got his [PGA Tour] card locked up. He's going to definitely be a threat on Tour, and same thing with Jackson. Jackson has played really well all freshman year and has done things that I don't think anyone else has done like that. It was just cool for me to be part of that group and be out there playing with them.

Q. How does this golf course set up for your game?

Clanton: It's good. It's fair, but tough. I think if you drive it well and hit it well, you're going to play pretty well. It sounds dumb, but if you hit it in the rough out here, it's very penalizing, and around the greens are pretty hard. It's no joke. You have to miss in the right spots, but it's match play, anything can happen. I'm going to stay in my zone as much as I can. I've had a long week. I'm going to go back, probably eat a bunch of food and sleep, so I'm pretty pumped.

Q. How long was that putt on 10 right out of the gate, like 35 feet?

Clanton: Yeah, something like that. I honestly can't tell you. When I'm out there, I'm just having fun, man. I think I get a little too caught up in results sometimes, and this week I just really made sure I'm having fun with it because you're at the U.S. Amateur.

Q. How's your match play record?

Clanton: I think it's pretty good. I don't really keep up with that but again, it's match play, anything can happen. I had a really good buddy of mine that beat me last year, Matthew Sutherland. He played really good golf, and I think it's one of those things where if you just stay in your zone and do what you can and if the other guy beats you, the other guy beats you.

Q. What to you do to stay in shape? What to you do in between tournaments?

Clanton: A lot of stretching. A lot of recovery. I try to do a lot of ice baths but those are pretty brutal sometimes. But I think I do a really good job with staying patient and not over-exercising with everything because it's pretty easy to do that out here, so I think I've done a pretty good job the last couple weeks.

Q. You're going to move to No. 1 in WAGR tomorrow. Where does that rank in terms of everything that's happened this summer for you?

Clanton: I didn't even know that, so that's pretty cool. There's so many good amateurs out there, and to have that No. 1 spot now is pretty cool, but again you just have to play good golf. I'm going to keep doing what I do and it's not going to change too much with my mindset or anything. I've been working for that, but it's not the biggest goal.

Q. Is that in the back of your mind? Because the McCormack Medal is awarded after the U.S. Am and there's perks with that – spots in the U.S. Open and British Open.

Clanton: Again, I'm just going to stay in my zone. I'm going to be honest with you, I'm pretty simple when it comes to this. I'm not too heavy into this stuff. Golf's not my life. I think a lot of people get obsessed with it and I try to make sure that I don't get obsessed with it as much, and realize that I have a beautiful girlfriend, a great family. You get too obsessed with golf sometimes, it becomes a little hard.

Q. Are you superstitious at all?

Clanton: Yeah. I got a lot of superstitions, but that's private (laughing).