

U.S. Amateur

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

Paul Chang,
People's Republic of China.
7-under 135 (64-71)



Q. Not a 64 out there today, but did you get what you wanted out of the second stroke-play round?

Paul Chang: “I would say so. I managed the course pretty well today. Whenever I was out of position, I hit the smart shot and punched out back in the fairway. Definitely made a few putts. I don’t think I had any birdie putts inside 10 feet. Made a good par putt on the third hole I played, which is 12. It’s a tough day out here today.”

Q. Did you use today’s round at Hazeltine as a litmus test for how you want to attack the course for match play?

Paul Chang: “Sure. Today it played a lot firmer than the practice round. It’s what I expect from a U.S. Amateur Championship. Conditions are tough. Today with the [afternoon] breeze, it was tough. Every hole, every shot is going to be a grind. Just getting myself mentally prepared for the grind that is going to come.”

Q. You have the experience from 2023 of winning a couple of matches and making a run. Do you think that will help you once the matches begin?

Paul Chang: “We don’t really have too much match play [in college]. We sometimes do it in between teammates [in practice]. That’s about it. I really love match play. ... Head to head [aspect] and a lot more strategy. It’s less of you against the course. Obviously, it’s still you against the course, but a lot of times your strategy is dependent on how your opponent just did...Some drivers may become 2-irons [off the tee] or the other way.”

Note – Chang lost in the Round of 16 last year at Cherry Hills to John Marshall Butler. Rising senior at the University of Virginia. Spent first two years on the club team at UVA before joining the varsity last year.