

U.S. Amateur

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

Ethan Evans,
Mercer Island, Wash.
7-under 63 (second round, stroke play)



Q. 7-under 63, could you walk me through the round? Especially your second nine.

Evans: Yeah, it was fun. I mean, it was kind of a jittery start. I was one under on my first five holes, I think, but it was not easy. I was getting up and down. And then I bogeyed 15, probably the hardest hole out here. But then I knew there were a lot of gettable holes coming in. Front nine was definitely more gettable. Just had a really good second nine. Hit shots how I wanted to. We were actually on the clock, so I was playing faster, getting into a rhythm, and it wasn't too bad. But yeah, just hit a lot of good shots, and fortunately birdied nine to shoot 29.

Q. What happened on 15?

Evans: I just hit it in the left rough, and that's a hole you can't miss the fairway on. So I kind of gave myself a tough shot from there, and then hit it over the green, and actually got up and down for bogey from just short of the green. So, wasn't a bad 5 all in all.

Q. And on that second nine, were you making putts, hitting it close, or both?

Evans: It was a combination. It's definitely gettable, but I just, you know, the intimidatiting tee shots out there, I kept it in play, and then from there it's pretty straight forward. Greens are soft, hit some good approach shots and then got a few putts to go in towards the end, which was nice.

Q. What's your experience with match play? Comfort levels with the format?

Evans: It's so much fun. I think you just have to embrace how fun it is. Obviously, you might catch a guy on a good day, but ultimately, I feel like if I play my game it should be a long week this week. But, just taking it one hole, one match at a time. I didn't quite make match play at the Western, but it's nice to make it here and have a chance to get out there.

Q. Was there anything you learned specifically out at Hazeltine yesterday or any key takeaways that you think you'll be leaning on tomorrow?

Evans: For sure. It's definitely tough going from Hazeltine to this course, and then back there tomorrow. It's definitely a different golf course that requires better driving of the ball, as far as getting it in the fairway. The rough's thicker out there. I think plan 1 is just to get there early, get the driver going well. If I hit lots of fairways, I should be great. Irons and putting are really solid right now. I think that's the key.