

U.S. Mid-Amateur

Saturday, Sept. 21, 2024
Independence Golf Club
Midlothian, Va.

Evan Beck,
Virginia Beach, Va.
2-under 68 (first round, stroke play)



Q. You had it to 5 under through nine and then played plus-3 golf on the way home?

Evan Beck: “Played really well starting out. Hit a couple close and made a couple of long putts, and just limped in there. Seven, eight and nine are playing really hard. Missed it where you can’t miss it on nine (left of green) and made a bogey. Seven is one of the hardest holes out here without the USGA adjustments. It’s always tough for the [Virginia] State Open. It’s 235, 238 yards today. It’s a short par 4. And then eight is a par-4 now (normally a par 5). I just kind of held on coming in. I think it should be all right. Disappointing finish on [my] back nine for how well I was playing.”

Q. You had three consecutive birdies from No. 12 on your first nine today. Were they long putts?

Evan Beck: “I think I made two putts of decent length and then hit one in there really close on 13.”

Q. You have won two Virginia State Opens here. What is your comfort level for Independence?

Evan Beck: “I love Independence. Always have. I’ve been playing here since I was a kid. I think it was the first place I ever broke 70 when I was like 12, 13 years old. A lot of good memories. That was back when it was bentgrass [greens]. The changes that they’ve made have been really good. Bermuda[grass] greens make this place play a lot tougher...I’ve probably played here 50 times. It’s an awesome place and I’m happy to be here.”

Q. What is your familiarity with Kinloch?

Evan Beck: “Not nearly as much. Probably played there 10 times in my life. It’s a wonderful venue. They keep it in great shape. It’s going to be very different. Driving it straighter will be more of a premium.”

Q. You are a veteran of USGA championships, but how different is this one playing in your home state just two hours from your residence?

Evan Beck: “It’s so nice to have it so close and to have my family be able to be here. Friends are coming out to watch to see what I do every year, traveling all over the country [for amateur events]. It’s cool to have it so close.”

Note – Runner-up in 2023. Also runner-up in the 2008 U.S. Junior Amateur. Currently No. 32 in the World Amateur Golf Ranking®/WAGR®. Has childhood friend Mikey Moyers on his bag. Caddied for him last year at local and final U.S. Open qualifying.