

U.S. Mid-Amateur

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

**Jordan Utley,
Richmond, Va.**

3-under 67 (first round, stroke play)



Q. Obviously, having previously worked at Independence Golf Club, you are quite familiar with the layout?

Jordan Utley: “Yeah, definitely. I’ve been around here once or twice. But it’s a little bit different when you are under the gun at a USGA tournament. It was a good round. Very pleased.”

Q. How many times do you think you have played this course?

Jordan Utley: “I probably have north of 40 or 50, if I had to guess, over the years, and that’s probably underselling how many times. Again, it’s tournament play and how the USGA sets up tournaments. I haven’t played 17 as a 650-yard, par-5 before. So that’s a little different. But familiarity helps for sure, and today I was able to pay that off.”

Q. Do you get good vibes when you come to a place you’ve played so often?

Jordan Utley: “There is certainly a comfort zone. But you have to stay so locked in throughout the day. Even though I’ve had similar shots, it’s still a different shot today. I recently talked to a couple of friends who have played a lot of USGA tournaments, and they say, just because you know it, you can’t take anything for granted.”

Q. You got to 4 under today and were bogey free until the par-3 seventh hole, your 16th of the round?

Jordan Utley: “I three-putted. Hit a beautiful tee shot, exactly how I was trying to hit it. My playing partner actually ran his [putt] a few feet by and I got a little bit tentative and left it about 5 or 6 feet short and missed [my par attempt]. I made a really nice par save on eight, my 17th hole, and I was very pleased to get in [with a 67].”

Q. The great start has to make you feel good about making it to match play on Monday?

Jordan Utley: “No doubt. I didn’t want to put myself in a hole, but tomorrow is another day, and I am going to do my best to shoot another good score.”

Note – Second USGA championship. Played 2019 Four-Ball at Bandon Dunes. Worked at Independence Golf Club as the director of finance from 2014-16. Currently a controller, CPA for Apple Fund Management...Grew up in Richmond area. Member at Heritage Country Club, near Kinloch, which is where he qualified for the U.S. Mid-Am...Has also played Kinloch a number of times over the years. Lives 5 minutes from Independence G.C. and 10 minutes from Kinloch.