

# U.S. Mid-Amateur

Saturday, Sept. 21, 2024  
Kinloch Golf Club  
Manakin-Sabot, Va.

**Matthew Johnson,**  
**Little Rock, Ark.**  
3-under 68 (first round, stroke play)



## **Q. What did you expect coming into your first USGA championship?**

Matthew Johnson: "My expectations were to have a great time and enjoy myself. And I have a lot of family and friends here so I feel very supported. I wasn't quite expecting to have the back nine that I did but I made a few putts."

## **Q. Tell me about your approach shot on No. 18, your ninth hole?**

Matthew Johnson: "I hit a terrible second shot and a fantastic third shot to 4 feet. I made the putt, straight up the hill."

## **Q. Did that give you a momentum boost?**

Matthew Johnson: "A huge momentum boost. It was a two-shot swing between taking a drop on my second shot, finding my ball, and then hitting it close. It was a huge momentum-changer for sure."

## **Q. Did you try to go for the green on the drivable par-4 sixth?**

Matthew Johnson: "I tried to go for the green and hit it in the back-right bunker. And then I hit a nice little bunker shot that fed down to about 3 feet."

## **Q. Talk about the playoff you had to survive in qualifying?**

Matthew Johnson: "It was on a course that I am a little bit familiar with which gave me an edge there. I had to beat out four people and luckily I birdied the first hole and we are here."

## **Q. What was the best thing you did today?**

Matthew Johnson: "The best thing I did was make my putts from inside 8 feet. I was probably 5 for 6 inside 8 feet. That really helped me go low today."

## **Q. Is playing in this championship everything you thought it would be?**

Matthew Johnson: "It's fantastic, probably a little bit more. The golf course is amazing, the staff has been incredible, and I am excited to see what tomorrow has in store."

**Note** – Johnson was one of four players to card a 69 in the Maumelle (Ark.) qualifier on July 23. He survived a 4-for-2 playoff to advance to his first USGA championship.