

U.S. Mid-Amateur

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

Stephen Hale,
Bakersfield, Calif.
5-under 66 (first round, stroke play)



Q. How would you review your round?

Stephen Hale: "I hit it really well. I hit a lot of greens and a lot of fairways. There were a lot of two-putts and then made some one-putts. It was really good, I can't complain."

Q. How does having your father, who played Major League Baseball, as your caddie help you?

Stephen Hale: "He probably gets more nervous than I do. He's super competitive and I love having him on the bag."

Q. Does he get you fired up out there?

Stephen Hale: "Sometimes. I like to keep even keel, but he is so competitive. He played against 50,000 screaming fans. He gets me fired up, it's fun."

Q. You are a veteran of this championship so what were your expectations this year?

Stephen Hale: "Honestly, my only goal, and it has been holding me back, I haven't really had fun. I have been too hard on myself."

"It's something that held me back when I was playing professionally. I am still trying to figure it out. Today was one of those days where I was really easy on myself."

Q. With this round in the books do you change your strategy tomorrow?

Stephen Hale: "It's fairways and greens. [And] two-putts and a couple of one-putts and we will go from there."

Q. How about going bogey-free on the Kinloch course?

Stephen Hale: "It was just a really solid round with no mistakes. Was I expecting it, no, but am I surprised [not really]. If you play well around here the fairways are generous and the greens are wide. I expect someone else will do it. I am not going to be the only one."

"It was a great round. I am a Mid-Amateur; it was awesome."

Note – Hale is playing in his fourth U.S. Mid-Amateur. He has made match play in all three of his previous starts. He hit a wedge to 6 feet to set up his fourth birdie on the par-5 12th. Hale made his fifth birdie on No. 15, with a 3-wood off the tee and a punch 165-yard, 7-iron with his approach to the middle of the green.