

U.S. Mid-Amateur

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

Andy Butler,
Philadelphia, Pa.
4-under 66 (first round, stroke play)



Q. Quite a round you had there. Eight pars and seven birdies to go with three bogeys?

Andy Butler: "I had it rolling there in the middle of the round."

Q. Four consecutive birdies from No. 17 (eighth hole of the day) and six in a seven-hole stretch. What happened there?

Andy Butler: "Seventeen, I rolled in a nice 20-footer, maybe a little unexpectedly. Eighteen, hit one up there to 15 feet and made that one. One, hit it to 8 feet and made that. And I had a 5-footer on two. Hit four in two, so had a good eagle putt from like 20 feet. Two-putted that. Guess the last one was on five and I guess that one was like 15-footer. Just hitting it close and putting well."

Q. Were you in a zone today? Did you sense a great round coming while warming up?

Andy Butler: "I had a solid warm up. Going into today, I kind of wanted to play smart golf. For a lot of the year, I have been shooting myself in the foot. I had the PA Mid-Am this past week [at Moselem Springs Golf Club] and learned a lot about course management there in the final round (75 after a 68)...I was in the final group and made some bad calls with clubs. So I just wanted to play smart and the putter was just kind of working."

Q. You missed the cut in the U.S. Mid-Amateur a year ago, correct?

Andy Butler: "The same thing. I had a couple of miscues, one at [stroke-play co-host] Fenway [Golf Club] and maybe a couple at Sleepy [Hollow C.C.]. You can't really make more than a bogey in [stroke play] or you're going to have to dig yourself out of that. I just wanted to play smart, and if I didn't have it, I didn't have it. I just wanted to avoid the big numbers."

Note – Bogeyed two of his last three holes (seven and eight), Right-bunker on 7 and found the left rough off the tee on 8...Went to Manheim Township High in Lancaster, Pa., same high school as two-time USGA champion Jim Furyk...Played at Villanova. Currently a consultant in Philadelphia.