

U.S. Mid-Amateur

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

Nick Barrett,
Catonsville, Md.

6-under 64 (first round, stroke play)



Q. What a round today. You birdied the two hardest, from a statistics perspective, holes on the course, Nos. 8 and 12?

Nick Barrett: "That was pretty good."

Q. How good would you rate this round?

Nick Barrett: "It's the best round I've played by far. In competition, I never even sniffed that. 69 or 68...I just got the putter going early and I just kept that same feel for the majority of the day."

Q. When you are having this kind of success in a round, how do you keep your head grounded?

Nick Barrett: "That's pretty difficult to describe because, obviously, I am thinking that all day. If I can just hold on and just keep pushing, I'll be in good shape. As cliché as it sounds, I just played one shot at a time."

Q. Was there a point in the round where you felt, this is going to be my day?

Nick Barrett: "I made a really nice 5-footer on my second hole [No. 11] and that was to save par. That was everything. Then I followed up with 12 there."

Q. Where was your lone bogey?

Nick Barrett: "It was 13. I hit a drive into the pine tree on the right. I thought it was going to be in the hazard, and it was, but it was playable. I cut just a little 6-iron short of the green, chipped it up to 10 feet and missed it. Looking back on it, it's crazy [that was my only bogey]."

Q. How much competitive golf or golf in general do you play?

Nick Barrett: "I'm good for one round a week, if I get lucky. Usually during the week, I can sneak out and hit some range balls...I played the Maryland Amateur [MC]. Played U.S. Open locals and qualifier for this (Mid-Amateur)."

Q. How do you explain what happened today?

Nick Barrett: "I can't."

Q. For you now, everything shifts to Kinloch. How do you feel about that layout?

Nick Barrett: "I feel pretty good about it. Kinloch, I have played there a handful of times. I've got a buddy back home who has a membership there and he's invited me down there a couple of times. I have got some knowledge on it, so I feel pretty good."

Note – 12, hit 8-iron from 164, 20 feet for birdie; No. 8 hit 7-iron from 190, 20 feet, playing for the front edge of green (182 yards)...Played in the 2016 U.S. Amateur Four-Ball, only other previous USGA event. He and partner Connor Flach lost, 1 down, in the opening round of match play to eventual finalists Ben Warnquist and Brandon Cigna. Did not attend college. Worked in a pro shop during his so-called college years. Currently drives a truck for UPS (last 6 years)...Got married last year (Julia)...Plays out of a resort course called Turf Valley Resort in Ellicott City, Md.

