

U.S. Mid-Amateur

Sunday, Sept. 22, 2024
Kinloch Golf Club
Manakin-Sabot, Va.

Parker Edens, Brookings, S.D.

6-under 65 (second round, stroke play)
Championship – 69-65—134 (7-under)



Q. It appears you won't have to worry about being in a playoff like last year?

Parker Edens: "A birdie-birdie-par finish [this year] is a little better than a bogey-bogey-double (bogey) finish last year to get in a playoff. The first goal of the week was just to make it easier and not be as stressful."

Q. Why did you attack the par 3s so well today?

Parker Edens: "I hit some really good shots and then I made some good putts. On 5 I was looking at a tree just left of it [the green] and I kind of pushed it at the flag. I told my caddie (Danny) that's what I tell my guys [student-athletes]. That's why we aim at the tree instead of at the flag and miss the green right."

Q. What lessons were learned from making the quarterfinals last year?

Parker Edens: "Last year I kind of thought I belonged out here beforehand. Making the quarterfinals showed me I can do. It gave me more confidence the last two days just knowing that I belong out here. I feel like I am one of the guys that can contend and compete.

"[In] the quarterfinals I went toe-to-toe the Mid-Am guy [eventual champion] and I am just looking forward to it."

Q. Do you hear from your student-athletes during championship week?

Parker Edens: "I have a lot of good dudes. Our social media put out a post yesterday and a bunch of them reposted it. A bunch of them texted me last night that said good playing. I am a lucky dude. They are actually playing in a practice round for a tournament today. Hopefully they go and play really good in it without me. They will probably ask me to stay away if that is the case. We are a super close group. They are like my second family."

Note – Edens is in his third season as the head men's golf coach at South Dakota State University. He reached the quarterfinals in last year's U.S. Mid-Amateur after advancing from a 16-for-14 playoff. He birdied three of the four par 3s in the second round. He made a 5-footer on No. 14 before hitting a pitching wedge to within 2 1/2 feet at No. 5. He made a 25-foot downhill putt from past the hole on No. 8.