

U.S. Mid-Amateur

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2024
Kinloch Golf Club
Manakin-Sabot, Va.

**Bobby Massa,
Dallas, Texas**

Round of 16
def. Brian Blanchard, 20 holes



Q. Three quarterfinal runs now in three consecutive USGA championships?

Bobby Massa: "It's been a fun run. These things are stressful. You kind of have to get a few good breaks here and there. I've driven it well basically for the last two years. So that's a huge advantage for me, because I hit a little bit farther than most of these guys. I made a lot of good quality putts today when he was in there tight, and it kind of kept my momentum going there for a little bit, and then I kind of struggled coming in. Then I made a good birdie on 17, and then 18, hit it right in the middle of the fairway, and had a mud ball. I didn't want to aim right, but I kind of had to protect [myself], and then hit a good bunker shot. I hit a good putt [from 6 feet], [at least] what I thought was a good putt, and it just kind of wiggled left and horseshoed back at me. That was tough. Then on the first playoff hole hit a nice drive and nice second, and [I thought my birdie putt] was in. It was in with about six inches to go and kind of wiggled right and ended up missing."

Q. What happened on the 20th hole?

Bobby Massa: "Hit a good drive. He unfortunately hit a kind of a wayward [tee] shot, and got a really bad right lie in the rough, and couldn't get it up and down [for par]. So he made [bogey] on the second. I was in there about eight feet, and the birdie was conceded,"

Q. What did you hit into 17? And what was the distance for the birdie putt?

Bobby Massa: "I hit driver, and then I hit my sand wedge from 120 yards, and it was probably seven feet, a little left-to-right putt."

Q. What have you learned from those these past two quarterfinal runs that will help you tomorrow?

Bobby Massa: "I don't know. You just got to play. You can't think about it and hope it's enough. That's usually what it comes down to, trying to grind out through pars and try to take advantage of the good [birdie] looks that you have."

Note – Massa advanced to the quarterfinals of last month's U.S. Amateur, losing to eventual champion Jose Luis Ballester; Also advanced to the quarterfinals of the 2023 U.S. Mid-Amateur; Works as a professional trainer in Dallas; one of his clients is USGA President Fred Perpell...Played collegiately at the University of Texas-Arlington.