



U.S. Amateur Four-Ball

May 16, 2026

Desert Mountain Club, Scottsdale, Ariz.
First Round (Outlaw Course)

Drew Kittleson & Drew Stoltz

Q. You guys were honored with the first tee shots today and certainly played like you were deserving of that.

Stoltz: "This was one of the days that we've been waiting to have, a real true ham and egg. You play well on the same holes, both shoot 70, but your best ball was 69 and some days you can both shoot 75 and your best ball is 66. We did a really good job of ham and egging today. He started off with some birdies, I made a bunch. It was just a good ham and egg day."

Q. How far were some of the putts on the back nine? The four birdies in a row.

Stoltz: "10-feet on No. 10. The par 3 was probably 22 feet. The driveable hole, probably 10 feet. Then probably three feet. The par 3 I hit nine iron."

Q: Birdied 16 and 17, what were those putts?

Kittleson: "16, good drive, chipped it up to the three feet nothing. Then I hit a really good wedge in there on 17 close."

Q: This type of golf, you guys lived here a long time, you're used to it, does that have an advantage when you're playing in a national championship type set up?

Kittleson: "It's not a disadvantage. I haven't played here (at Desert Mountain) in 20 years. Sleez (Drew Stoltz) had never played Outlaw until two days ago but conditions, temperature, the grass and everything is familiar."

Stoltz: "Being comfortable with desert golf, my friends from college will come here and freak out because they're from the East coast. It's a little bit different of an animal but we are used to it. There's no home cooking on the golf courses but knowing the grass and being comfortable playing desert golf, there is something to that for sure."

Q: Did you dial it back and not hit driver in some situations today?

Stoltz: "Our normal strategy is you play how you play if it was an individual event. I'll play how I play, then a few occasions per round we'll make adjustments. If I hit it in the hay, maybe just get one in play here. If someone is short-sided in a bunker plugged, maybe play it a little safer into the green but more or less we want to play how we play and make some birdies."

Q: You guys have been close twice, you're home, you're used to this type of golf, does this feel like your time?

Kittleson: "It's all about execution, but that is the idea for sure."

Stoltz: "That is the gameplan. Long way to go but it will be fun."

Q: How far away are you guys from Desert Mountain?

Kittleson: "50 minutes. But we live less than a mile away from each other."

Stoltz: "We stayed up north yesterday because we had first ball. Stayed at Whisper Rock, one of the bunk houses

which was great. With that 6:45 a.m. tee time that extra 30 minutes was nice.”

Q: Is there any difference between the two courses (Cochise and Outlaw) in how you play?

Kittleson: “I think both courses are way different.”

Stoltz: “I think Outlaw is trickier. Cochise is a lot more in front of you. If you talk to some other people, they thought the opposite. The greens are different over there (at Cochise). These (Outlaw) have a lot more Poa annua grass. It’s windier here (at Outlaw). They’ll get a little bumpier in the afternoon. I thought Cochise was more target golf and this one (Outlaw) would be great match play course too, has cool holes and the green complexes are wild.”