



U.S. Amateur Four-Ball

May 16, 2026

Desert Mountain Club, Scottsdale, Ariz.

First Round (Outlaw Course)

Will Davenport & Michael Smith

Q. Nine birdies. What was it like to watch your partner rolling the rock?

Smith: "Incredible. Just played so loose and he's always on. It's fun to watch. I'm there for support and green reading."

Q: Was there any point in time where you said, okay it's all you and walk off the course?

Smith: "It felt that way towards the back nine. The hole felt pretty big for him and pretty small for me. I just tried to stay out of the way and do my thing and just play steady."

Davenport: "Mike played rock solid. If we need to be in the hole for four, he was. It was a complete team effort. You can't get freed up to make long putts without him being in for par on the hole."

Q. You guys played in the afternoon with the winds picking up. What was the challenge playing in those conditions as the temperatures get higher and the winds picking up?

Stoltz: "I told Mike at the start of the week, it really cost me at the mid-am out here playing in the afternoon after practice

rounds in the morning not realizing the adjustment is 2 percent or so more. It's a lot of math out there. We would go ground number, adjust for altitude, adjust for elevation change, adjust for wind, adjust for landing spot. Sometimes the numbers are hard to get to."

"We may misjudge some things and we will certainly miss execution, but we will not make any bad decisions or miss any strategic decisions."

Q: Florida guys used to heat and humidity, how is this type of golf and weather for you?

Smith: "This is a cool day for us."

Davenport: "The ball sits. There is a lot of cushion under the ball here which helps me because I sweep the ball I don't compress it very well. It's a plush hitting surface, pleasant to play off and that's been helpful."

Smith: "Extremely pure. Really soft around the green and fairways so really nice to play."

Q: What was your longest birdie putt?

Davenport: "There were a few bombs."

Smith: "Three around the 30-40 foot range."

Davenport: "I probably made five over 30 feet. I honestly think I was approaching around 250 feet of putts."

Smith: "I'll let him do the math."

Davenport: "It was such an odd almost out of body experience on the greens. It's just saw them clear, hit them wherever we were looking and the hole caught them."

Q: Tomorrow is there a different game plan for Cochise?

Davenport: "We had a really nice practice round on Cochise yesterday and I felt like we found our way around that golf course really well. I do think the conservative strategy where you're playing to advance to match play is good but you don't want to let the course play you. You want to take advantage of the birdies out there. We're playing first out so wind will be down. We're hungry to go make birdies."

Smith: "Still a lot of strategy. Still a lot of math."

Davenport: "Today was the first day in years that I didn't know where we were at on a golf course. Bcause we were talking through so many pre-shot adjustments there wasn't time to think about what if we make bogey or birdie."

Smith: "There's so much strategy, so much thinking, we just tried to lock into that and let everything else happen."