

# U.S. Open Championship 2020

Thursday, September 17, 2020

Mamaroneck, New York, USA

Winged Foot Golf Club

## Cole Hammer

### Flash Interview



#### Q. Cole, just walk us through your round a bit.

COLE HAMMER: Yeah, I got off to a really tough start, three-putted the first hole and then bogeyed 3, doubled 4 with another three-putt and then bogeyed 6. I was 5-over through 6 and it was getting away from me. Luckily I birdied 9 and 10 and thought I may get some momentum from that, but kind of lost it on the next one, on 11, after I plugged in the bunker and made bogey.

I could not get anything going today. Made another good birdie on 13. But after that, I made a few bogeys coming in. All in all, it was just a brutal, tough day.

#### Q. What have been your reactions to the course so far this week?

COLE HAMMER: My gosh, this place is unbelievable. It's in absolutely pristine shape. It's hard. I think I only hit five fairways today, and if you're not hitting fairways, it's a total guessing game and you're out of position from the get-go, and I think I can attribute a lot of my bogeys to that. This golf course is amazing, and it's in great shape for sure.

#### Q. How does this experience compare to 2015 at Chambers Bay?

COLE HAMMER: I would say it's a lot different because back then I really had absolutely no idea what I was doing. I was 15. It almost felt like a circus, and it almost felt like I wasn't playing golf. But this was different. I played in the Houston Open last year and got a good experience there, and I thought it would kind of help me today. I was pretty nervous on the first hole, but nothing crazy. I usually am at every tournament.

But I think 2015 helped me for sure. It was just disappointing to not see the results pay off.

#### Q. Obviously a weird year for everyone; where did you feel your game was coming into this week?

COLE HAMMER: I had a pretty decent stretch this

summer in amateur golf, just didn't quite finish, I would say. It wasn't great. This last year has definitely not been my best golf. But I felt good coming in. I was hitting the ball really well and making a lot of putts, and for some reason just didn't go my way today.

#### Q. Is this your first time at Winged Foot?

COLE HAMMER: No, I played in the 2016 U.S. Amateur Four-Ball here at Winged Foot, which was a lot of fun. My partner, Walker Lee, and I didn't exactly play great; I think we missed the cut by two. But it was a great experience and it was good to see the course. I know it was before Winged Foot redid the greens, but it was still the same golf course essentially.

#### Q. How different is the course, though?

COLE HAMMER: It's a lot different now than it was back in 2016. I don't notice too much on the greens other than the fact that they're firmer, faster and probably a little more undulating. The fairways are definitely narrower this week than they were in 2016, and the rough is obviously a lot longer. It was not very penal in 2016 and now it's almost a stroke penalty.

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