

# U.S. Senior Open Championship

Friday, July 3, 2026

Columbus, Ohio, USA

Scioto Country Club

## George McNeill

### Press Conference

THE MODERATOR: We're here with George McNeill, 4-under 66, lowest round of the championship so far. Can you just talk us through that round? Good playing.

GEORGE McNEILL: Thank you. It was -- obviously the conditions are -- the course conditions are perfect, which helps. It's getting firm. It's getting fast, which is, I think, what the championship wants and needs, weather permitting obviously. We may have some weather coming in tomorrow, but we'll see.

Overall, I hit it mostly where I was looking today, so that's good, and made a few putts. Tried to stay out of trouble. If I did get in trouble off the tee and stuff, I kind of had -- usually I had an angle to hit it up on or near the green and kind of made the putts that I needed to make to make those par saves and then made a few birdies on top of that.

#### **Q. You made a bomb on 9 to end the round. How cool was that to end with a bang like that?**

GEORGE McNEILL: That was unexpected. I did not -- Scott Hend, he was playing, and he was two feet farther than I was basically at the same line. So I watched his putt kind of roll up near the hole, but his kind of stayed straight going up towards the hole, and he left it a foot and a half short or something. So I kind of had a good idea on the speed and everything.

I felt like I started on the same line, and I got a little right of the hole, but then it broke back just at the end. Happy to see it go in. That's a bonus. I'll take it. I made a long one on 9 yesterday. Again, bonus, I'll take it, because I know there's plenty of bad bounces or whatever you got that will happen. So I'll take what I can get.

#### **Q. You'll have a late tee time tomorrow, probably the latest tee time. What does recovery look like tonight for you?**



GEORGE McNEILL: Go get some rest, get some dinner, take a shower. Nothing out of the ordinary. Nothing -- I don't think I'm going to try to do anything different than I normally would at a tournament.

#### **Q. First Senior Open for you. How does it just feel to be here and make it to the weekend?**

GEORGE McNEILL: Well, that was my first goal, to make it to the weekend. I played in, I think, five USGA Championships before, five U.S. Opens. Never played in a U.S. Amateur or any junior amateurs or anything like that.

So five U.S. Opens. My best finish, I think, was Oakmont in 2007. I think I finished -- I made the cut on the number, and I think I finished last of the guys that made the cut. So nothing too exciting.

All the other championships, I believe I missed the cut. Never really had a good feel for U.S. Opens. I don't know if age is helping me. This Senior Open is obviously I'm doing okay so far. There's a long way to go on the weekend, but to make it to the weekend was my first goal, first step, and then go from there, and we'll see what happens.

#### **Q. Statistically, your approach game has been on fire through two rounds. You're ranked second in greens in regulation. Has that part of your game that's felt especially good this weekend?**

GEORGE McNEILL: I wasn't aware of that, but now I am. I typically hit it okay. I hit a lot of greens. Don't make a ton of putts. I've been working hard on my putting the last probably three months, and it's starting to show, but we'll see. I haven't really been under pressure in any of those events.

On the Champions Tour, I've had a lot of good finishes and top 10s and what have you, a couple of second place finishes and had some chances, but nothing where I felt really under the gun. Maybe I'll just kind of cruise through this too, I hope. We'll see tomorrow and Sunday.

Typically, I hit it okay and kind of manage -- again, keep the ball in front of me, hit it mostly where I'm looking. I hit a few foul balls here and there, but overall it's been okay.



