

# U.S. Amateur Championship

Press Conference

Friday August 19, 2016

## Jonah Texeira

THE MODERATOR: We're here with our next semifinalist, Jonah Texeira. He's a junior at University of Southern California, came to us with victories over Colton Yates, Dawson Armstrong, Kyler Dunkle and now a 3 & 2 victory over Luis Gagne.

You've reached the semifinals at the U.S. Amateur. What are your thoughts about your experience?

JONAH TEXEIRA: Words can't explain to be honest how I feel right now. I mean, it feels like I'm dreaming. I never thought I'd get this far. When I got here, I was an alternate, so my whole goal was just to get into match play, and then to make it this far is an absolute blessing. I can't explain right now how I'm feeling.

**Q. You found out August 8 you got in the championship. What a roll you've been on.**

JONAH TEXEIRA: Yeah, I didn't really think I was going to get in, first alternate, but I was still practicing. I had a little bit of faith and then my mom called me. I was at the dealership and she's like, "You got in the Am!" I was just jumping for joy. I couldn't wait to get here and try my best to -- whatever happens, happens.

**Q. Is the dealership a job for you?**

JONAH TEXEIRA: I was getting my car serviced and she called me. Then she's like, "Hey, you got in the Am!"

I was like, "Woo!" I was pretty excited.

**Q. Tell us about your match today. How do you feel coming off the course?**

JONAH TEXEIRA: Definitely the hardest match I've played so far. Luis is an absolute great player. He hits it straight. His putting and chipping is great. I was lucky enough to get to a good start in the beginning. I made some clutch putts. I think I made like a 15-footer on 2, another 15-footer on 4, I made eagle on 6 and I made like a 40-footer on 7 to get to 4-up, and I was like, okay, this is like awesome.

But yeah, he played great. On the back nine, he actually started making birdies and I knew he was coming back. I was just like, okay, calm down, Jonah, make pars and let him catch you. I did make pars and



got some clutch up-and-down. On 16, that wedge shot to two feet to clinch it was pretty special.

**Q. That birdie blitz you had earlier, is that something you do from time to time, going on runs like that?**

JONAH TEXEIRA: Sometimes, but it's very rare it happens. And for it to happen in the quarterfinals is pretty spectacular. So I'm just excited for it to happen on the front nine.

**Q. And then secondly, with playing Luis, getting in as an alternate late, as well, did you have any humorous conversations?**

JONAH TEXEIRA: We talked a little bit but we didn't really talk about that for some reason. Just didn't cross our minds. But I mean still, for two alternates to make it to the quarterfinals is pretty cool I guess.

**Q. This is your second time playing in the amateur?**

JONAH TEXEIRA: I played Olympia Fields last year and missed the match play by one.

**Q. Was this remotely in your mind?**

JONAH TEXEIRA: It was in the back of my mind. I knew, I recently just switched coaches to Adam Porzak who just changed my game and changed my life completely. He's the greatest guy I've ever met. He's just so simple.

I went to him just after nationals because I wasn't really hitting it good. Worked with him a couple times and got my swing down to really consistent and my putting, just absolutely insane. You know, I definitely would give him credit for where I am right now.

**Q. Your next match is going to be against Brad Dalke. What do you know about going up against Brad?**

JONAH TEXEIRA: Brad is a cool guy. I remember when I was 15 and he was like 13, and we played the AJGA Thunderbird Invitational and he ended up winning it. We hung out a lot. Our dads played a lot of ping-pong and stuff. But Brad, he's a great guy. He's going to be a good match tomorrow.

**Q. And tell us about the rain delay, or should I say the storm delay. How do you deal with something**

**like that that takes you off the course?**

JONAH TEXEIRA: I just eagled 6 and I drove my ball in the bunker on 7 and then they called the rain delay, and I was like, oh, my God, I got a bunker shot, and I have like an hour, you know what I mean.

It kind of took -- I would say it took the momentum off a little bit; that's what I thought. Then I got back and I made a 40-foot bomb on 7 to go like 4-up I think, and I was like, okay, well, that's a bonus. So it was pretty cool.

**Q. Who do you have with you support-wise?**

JONAH TEXEIRA: I have my mom. She's always there for me. I love her to death. Yeah, she does everything for me. And I definitely wouldn't be here without her or my dad, so yeah.