26th U.S. Mid-Amateur Championship

Par: 35-36-71
Yardage: 6,941
Entries: 4,052
U.S. Mid-Amateur

Sept. 9-14, Forest Highlands Golf Club (Canyon Course), Flagstaff, Ariz.

Second course for
stroke play:
Meadow Course
Par: 36-36-72
Yardage: 7,339
Complete Stroke-Play Results

Failed to Qualify

Joe Nettleton, St. Louis, Mo., 76-75-75; James Evans, Rogers, Ark., 80-80-80; Robert Gough, Anderson, S.C., 76-78-78; Kevin Stilson, Toledo, Ohio, 76-76-78; Michael Goodall, Canandaigua, N.Y., 76-78-72; Dan Fuller, Raleigh, N.C., 76-72-72; Brent Daugherty, Charlotte, Va., 75-75-75; William Mitchell, Austin, Texas, 75-75-75; Seth Thompson, Ramsey, Minn., 75-75-75; Brian Liggett, Bowling Green, Ohio, 76-74-73; Robert Munday, Brunswick, Ohio, 76-73-73; Simon Young, Columbus, England, 77-75-75; Greg Wagner, West Brookfield, Mass., 75-76-74; John Smith, West Palm Beach, Fla., 75-76-75; Jamie Stavens, Towson, Md., 75-79-75; Cameron Howell, Tuckahoe, Ariz., 74-75-75; Jack Collier, Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., 75-74-77; Dan Gean, Jackson, Tenn., 75-75-77; Todd Winslow, New York, N.Y., 75-77-73; Alain Johnson, Winnetka, Ill., 75-77-72; Gary Strook, Callard, Calif., 72-78-75; Brian Gearing, Wake Forest, N.C., 72-78-75; Steve Wilson, Diamond Crest, Calif., 72-75-79; Brian Harris, Oklahoma, 69-77-73; Rick Johnson, Thornton, Colo., 70-77-73; Bill Wilkins, Portland, Ore., 77-74-73; Andrew Dill, Columbus, Ohio, 77-78-74; Joe Patel, West Islip, N.Y., 76-78-76; Steve Miller, Wolcott, Ohio, 75-78-75; Paul Meyers, Palm Beach, Fla., 75-78-75; Robert Perdew, Savannah, Ga., 75-77-74; John Perry, San Antonio, Texas, 76-75-76; Michael Love, Magnolia, Ark., 76-75-77; Karl Hardin, Sun City, Ariz., 72-75-75; Tom Weimaker, Grand Rapids, Mich., 78-74-76; Austin Itani, Ill., 70-74-81; North Sutton, N.H., 73-78-75; Benjamin Day, Boston, Mass., 72-75-76; Donald Sparrow, Dauphin, Ohio, 71-75-75; Cameron Brownell, Los Angeles, Calif., 71-75-75; David Zen, Redding, Conn., 74-78-76; Bill Hennessey, East Lyme, Conn., 76-76-73; Keith Mannor, Baptisht Church, Fla., 76-70-76; Michael Kelley, Winter Park, Fla., 73-75-75; Alain Johnson, Winnetka, Ill., 75-77-72; Kevin Fray, San Ramon, Calif., 73-76-74; Wight Weddin, Columbus, Ga., 73-76-72; Bob O'Connor, Boston, Mass., 72-75-75; Bob Chirchian, Auburn, Ill., 73-78-76; Bill McLauchlan, Kernersville, N.C., 76-74-79; Richard Williams, Old Lyme, Conn., 76-72-74; John Cassidy, Flemington, N.J., 75-73-73; Chuck Green, Columbus, Ohio, 72-75-76; Jim Young, Hoffman Estates, Ill., 76-70-75; John Hoffman, Hoffman Estates, Ill., 76-70-75; Mike McGinn, Bal Harbour, Fla., 75-70-72; Brian Sizer, Cuyahoga, Ohio, 72-75-77; Larry Sublett, Urbana, Ill., 72-75-75; Jim Welles, South Bend, Ind., 72-75-75; Kevin Murphy, Austin, Texas, 72-72-72; Michael O'Brien, Philadelphia, Pa., 72-75-73; Michael McCarthy, West Des Moines, Iowa, 72-74-74; Jeff Kros, Augusta, Ga., 71-75-76; Arnold Palmer, Greensboro, Pa., 72-74-73; John Fromm, Farmington, Conn., 71-75-76; Morgan Brown, Jackson, Miss., 71-73-73; Greg Raymond, Grand Blanc, Mich., 71-75-74; Rick Reising, Santa Barbara, Calif., 71-75-74; Jordan Spirt, Osyamon, S.C., 71-75-72; John McKee, Austin, Texas, 71-75-74; Randy Nicola, Conshohocken, Pa., 71-75-73; Del Reid, Houston, Texas, 72-72-73; Randy Nielson, Fort Worth, Texas, 72-75-74; Jonathan James, Chestnut Hill, Mass., 72-71-74; Paige Axtman, Quaker Hill, N.Y., 72-75-76; Jason Buse, Los Angeles, Calif., 72-73-74; Jon Weir, Madison, Wis., 72-73-72; Frank Mullen, Columbus, Ohio, 72-73-73; Frank Sutter, Columbus, Ohio, 72-73-74; John Ferraro, Danville, Va., 72-75-74; John Ferraro, Danville, Va., 72-75-74; John Ferraro, Danville, Va., 72-75-74; John Ferraro, Danville, Va., 72-75-74;
In 1981, the USGA inaugurated its first new championship in 19 months, the U.S. Mid-Amateur. The Mid-Amateur, for amateur golfers of at least 25 years of age, provides a formal national championship for the post-college amateur, for whom the game is truly an avocation.

Before the arrival of the Mid-Amateur, the post-college player could compete in the Amateur championship, sometimes successfully, but these older amateurs faced greater odds. While they fit their golf around their work and families, they were most often competing against college golfers, for whom the game is close to a full-time activity.

Only about 40 percent of those who qualify for the U.S. Amateur Championship each year are at least 25, although several have been quite successful. For example, Bob Lewis Jr., then 41, reached the Amateur final in 1986, and the semifinals in 1981 and 1986. Jay Sigel won consecutive Amateur titles in 1982 and 1983 (at ages 37 and 38, respectively), then added the Mid-Amateur title in 1983, 1985 and 1987. In 1986, Buddy Alexander, 53, a reinstated amateur, won the U.S. Amateur and in 1993, 41-year-old John Harris won the Amateur.

In general, however, most post-college amateurs found themselves at a disadvantage competing against college golfers. Thus, the Mid-Amateur championship was born.

Played at the Bellarine Country Club in St. Louis, the first Mid-Amateur drew 1,625 entries in 1981. The field included three former Amateur champions: Gary Cowan (1966, 1971), Marvin Giles III (1972), and Fred Ridley (1975). Jim Holtgrieve, 33, of Des Peres, Mo., defeated fellow Walker Cupper Bob Lewis Jr., 37, of Warren, Ohio, in the final, 2 up.

In 1983, Jay Sigel, 39, of Bervyn, Pa., became the first golfer in 53 years to win two USGA championships in the same year when he added the Mid-Amateur championship to the U.S. Amateur he had won just 32 days earlier.


In 1985's first qualifying round, Don Bliss of St. Louis, made holes-in-one on the eighth and 10th holes at Brook Hollow Golf Club in Dallas, Texas. Bliss is the only player to score two holes-in-one in one round of a USGA championship.

Jim Stuart of Macon, Ga., became the first player to win two consecutive Mid-Amateur championships when he won in 1990 and 1991.

The U.S. Mid-Amateur Championship has continued to grow in popularity and in 1989 topped 3,000 entries for the first time.

In its post-history, the championship's unique age qualification has inspired similar tournaments throughout the country and there are now Mid-Amateur events in nearly every state.

In 2001, the final match, for the first time in the history of the championship, was expanded from 18 to 36 holes.