

US OPEN 5 THINGS WE LEARNED FROM SUNDAY

Fitzpatrick's work ethic pays off

David Dusek

Golfweek | USA TODAY Network

BROOKLINE, Mass. – On a chilly, overcast New England day, the lead at the 122nd U.S. Open went back and forth throughout the afternoon.

Matt Fitzpatrick, Will Zalatoris and Scottie Scheffler all reached 6 under during their rounds at The Country Club on Sunday, but only one of them, the Englishman who won the 2013 U.S. Amateur at this course, was able to finish there.

Fitzpatrick becomes the third golfer to win a U.S. Amateur and U.S. Open on the same course, joining Jack Nicklaus at Pebble Beach and Juli Inkster at Prairie Dunes.

Here are five things we learned on Sunday at The Country Club.

Fitzpatrick did it the hard way

Last year, Jon Rahm, one of the most powerful players in golf, won the U.S. Open at Torrey Pines. The year before that, it was Bryson DeChambeau, one of the biggest hitters on the PGA Tour (or LIV Series starting in a few weeks). The year before that, Gary Woodland, another power player, won the U.S. Open at Pebble Beach.

Matt Fitzpatrick has always been an outstanding putter and possessed a solid short game but recently has gotten longer off the tee.

“(My coach and biomechanist Sasho Mackenzie) gave me this speed stick called The Stack. I’ve been doing that religiously week in and week out,” Fitzpatrick said Sunday evening. “It’s like going to the gym basically. It’s like a training program. I’ll be honest, it’s worked wonders.”

“I feel like maybe three years ago if I was in this position, four years ago, and I was playing with Will in the final group, I’d be concerned that I’m going to be 15, 20 behind him. And I felt comfortable all day that I was going to be past him, which to me gives me confidence obviously going into the next shot knowing that you’ve got less club.”

During the 2018-19 PGA Tour season, Fitzpatrick ranked 151st in driving distance on Tour (287.9 yards per drive), but this season he is up to 298 yards. That’s still 108th, but he ranks 40th in driving accuracy, so while he’s 11 yards longer, he still hits about 65% of the fairways.

On demanding golf courses like Southern Hills last month during the PGA Championship and this past week at The Country Club, which featured thick rough and fescue along the fairways, he ranked fifth in driving accuracy



With his victory in the U.S. Open, Englishman Matt Fitzpatrick has risen from No. 18 to No. 10 in the Official World Golf Ranking. PETER CASEY/USA TODAY SPORTS

cy and was 36th in driving average at 309 yards.

Fitzpatrick is also legendary on tour for his work ethic. He has tracked every shot he has hit in competition and practice rounds for the last 12 years. If he continues to put in the work, more victories could be on the way.

Zalatoris has the pieces but hasn't put them together – yet

It was an odd day for Will Zalatoris because his putter made up for shortcomings off the tee and from the fairway. Typically, that’s not the case.

Zalatoris hit just seven of 14 fairways on Sunday, contributing to only 11 of 18 greens in regulation. He came into the U.S. Open ranked No. 1 in strokes gained off the tee. It’s tough to win a tournament, especially a major championship, if the foundation of your game doesn’t show up on Sunday.

“Considering where I drove it today, the fact I was even under par was obviously pretty nice,” Zalatoris said after signing for his 69. “I thought I made a lot of nice putts just to keep myself in it. Stealing one on 9, saving par on 13. I really felt great with the putter all week, and I hit a great putt on 18. It just happened to hang out there.”

This is now three close calls in major

championships for Zalatoris. He was the runner-up at the 2021 Masters, lost in a playoff last month at the PGA Championship and tied for second at the U.S. Open. He has the prototypical modern game but must put the pieces together for four rounds if he wants to win. He’s 160th on the PGA Tour in strokes gained putting (0.227). If he can improve that and just become a tour-average putter, so his putting doesn’t cancel out his excellent iron play, he will have a long and successful career.

LIV Golf Series may not be good preparation for majors

At the start of the U.S. Open, there were 14 golfers who either played in the first LIV Series event in London or who announced they are going to play LIV Series events in the future, but none of them were in real contention by Sunday, and most of them missed the cut. Dustin Johnson, the 2016 U.S. Open winner, was the “Low LIV” at 2 over through 54 holes, and he finished Sunday at 4 over (T-24).

The PGA Tour has suspended its members who played in the LIV Series event in London, and golfers who play at the end of June in the next LIV Series event will also assuredly get indefinitely suspended by Jay Monahan, which will

dramatically reduce playing opportunities in big events and against elite fields. Remember, LIV Series events are 54 holes, and there is no cut, so while they are lucrative, they may not be the best place for a golfer to get sharp before a major championship. The tough questions about being involved with Saudi Arabia will also surely be a distraction for LIV Series players in majors to come.

USGA really doesn't want a repeat of Shinnecock or Olympic

The Country Club proved to be an excellent venue for the United States Golf Association, and thanks to the wind and cool temperatures provided by Mother Nature, the course was as challenging to play as it was beautiful to see.

After Friday’s round, some golf lovers were concerned that 23 golfers were under par. For them, carnage and struggle are what the U.S. Open is all about, but it’s now clear that if the USGA is going to make a mistake when setting up courses, it will err on the conservative side. The fairways were narrow, the greens were fast and the rough was thick and lush, but the classic venue never felt tricked out or over the top.

On Wednesday, USGA CEO Mike Wahn talked with the media about anchor sites for USGA national championships, with Pinehurst, Oakmont and Pebble Beach already locked in for numerous events well into the 2040s.

The Country Club should be added to that list. Now.

No one should ever quit at a U.S. Open

It’s cliché, but you can win if you make the cut at the U.S. Open. And if you don’t win, you can still make a big move.

Hideki Matsuyama and Collin Morikawa did not win this week, but they shot the day’s low rounds on Sunday, a 65 and a 66, respectively, and raced up the leaderboard. Both started the day at 2 over par, six shots off the lead, and Matsuyama finished in solo fourth. Morikawa finished in a tie for fifth.

It would be easy to feel dejected on a difficult course like The Country Club, as we saw when Grayson Murray threw his putter and then snapped an iron over his knee, but moves can be made. It felt like the crowd in Boston was trying to will McIlroy up the leaderboard, and while he fell short of winning his second U.S. Open, he finished tied for fifth with Morikawa.

Next year, when you are filling out your U.S. Open pool, remember to pick grinders.

Umpires

Continued from Page 8C

and more a concern with rules.”

Until the technical kinks are smoothed out and stakeholders agree the time has come for automation, MLB will be wedded to its “blues.” That includes the Cuba-born Hernandez, who unsuccessfully sued MLB for discrimination, claiming he was denied crew chief and postseason assignments

based on his race and not performance.

In 2023, Hernandez will mark his 30th anniversary as an MLB umpire

To the players? Mention his name in private and the reaction is largely ambivalent. “Just another guy,” says one pitcher. “If he’s working a game in Seattle and I’m here, I’m not thinking about him,” offers another.

A hitter opts to cut the conversation short rather than opine. “The game’s hard,” says one player, letting his forthcoming silence tell plenty about his feel-

ings for Hernandez. “We’ll leave it at that.”

Factoring temporary call-ups and other substitutes, players will deal with roughly 100 umps behind the plate. The greater enemy, always, is the grind, and within that the hope that over six months and up to 700 plate appearances, the good and bad calls will be a wash come October.

“If your team is winning and you’re playing well, it’s like all right, whatever, they’ll even out,” says Rockies third baseman Ryan McMahon. “And if it’s

going bad, it’s like ah, you’re getting screwed all the time. But they do even out more than people realize.”

“In sports, human error needs to be a thing,” says Bassitt. “I think that’s what makes the sports in general beautiful is that there is human error, not just from the athletes but the people umpiring and officiating, managers calling the game, general managers ... everybody makes mistakes.

“We’re all human. We’re all trying to do our best. And I think that’s the beauty in it all.”

MARKETPLACE TODAY

For advertising information: 1.800.397.0070 www.russelljohns.com/usat

To view more Classified listings, visit: classifieds.usatoday.com

NOTICES	
PUBLIC NOTICE	
<p>Notice to Bidders</p> <p>Region 14 ESC (the “Lead Agency”), on behalf of National Cooperative Purchasing Alliance (NCPA) and public agencies in all 50 states, that elect to access the Master Agreement is soliciting proposals to enter into Master Agreements for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affiliate Compliance Management #29-22 • Bulk Fuel #31-22 • Compliance and Cost-Containment Strategy and Management of Healthcare Costs #26-22 • Curb Management Technology #27-22 • ERP Software and Implementation Services #33-22 • Furniture #24-22 • Integrated Security Technologies and Safety Systems Products and Services #28-22 • Roadway Maintenance Equipment and Supplies #23-22 • School Transportation for Students with Special Needs #32-22 • Software as a Solution for Infrastructure Projects #30-22 • Traffic Control, Enforcement, & Signal Preemption Equipment #25-22 <p>Due Thursday, July 21, 2022 at 2:00 pm CST</p> <p>Responses shall be received electronically no later than the submittal deadline via our online Bonfire portal at nca.bonfirehub.com.</p> <p>NCPA To request a copy of specifications, please visit NCPA’s website www.ncpa.us.</p>	

PUBLIC NOTICE	
<p>Sourcewell, a State of Minnesota local government unit and service cooperative, is requesting proposals for Public Safety and Emergency Management Equipment, Tool, and Supply Catalog Solutions to result in a contracting solution for use by its Participating Entities.</p> <p>Sourcewell Participating Entities include thousands of governmental, higher education, K-12 education, nonprofit, tribal government, and other public agencies located in the United States and Canada.</p> <p>A full copy of the Request for Proposals can be found on the Sourcewell Procurement Portal https://proportal.sourcewell-mn.gov</p> <p>Only proposals submitted through the Sourcewell Procurement Portal will be considered.</p> <p>Proposals are due no later than August 9, 2022, at 4:30 p.m. Central Time, and late proposals will not be considered.</p>	

PUBLIC NOTICE	PERSONALS
<p>NAME CHANGE</p> <p>I, PRINCY ABHI GANDHI have changed my name to PRINCY MUKESHKUMAR SHAH due to the divorce.</p>	<p>BEAUTIFUL ASIAN WOMEN</p> <p>Desire friendship, romance!</p> <p>Free brochure. Since 1991.</p> <p>Send S.A.S.E to: P.I.C., BOX 4601-USA, Thousand Oaks CA 91359.</p> <p>805-492-8040 www.pacisl.com</p>

Place your ad in USA TODAY!
Call: 800-397-0070

To advertise, call: 1-800-397-0070

MARKETPLACE	
BOOKS/PUBLICATIONS	
<p>SECONDARY BREAK</p> <p>An NBA Dad’s Story</p> <p>written by: Marvin Williams Sr.</p> <p>This book is about a young man and his love for basketball. It will show you how ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE when you continue to follow your passion.</p> <p>Available for purchase at BarnesAndNoble.com and Amazon.com</p>	
TRAVEL	
CAMPGROUNDS	
<p>Celebrate 2022 at Boulder Creek Lodge Montana “The Happiest Place in Montana” It is time to plan your 2022 Summer Vacation</p> <p>Think Montana</p> <p>Boulder Creek Lodge in beautiful southwest Montana is located between two mountain ranges that make up the Northern Rocky Mountains. Located 11 miles north of Phillipsburg, Mt or midway between Glacier National Forest and Yellowstone. During your visit plan on fishing, sapphire mining, visiting ghost towns, and visiting a famous candy store. Destinations within a short drive of the resort: Phillipsburg, Butte, Deer Lodge, Anaconda, Missoula, and Helena, Montana. Resort features: Cabins, Glamouring Tips and Comestoga Wagon, RV Park, restaurant and free strong wifi.</p> <p>Boulder Creek Lodge Montana Call 406-859-3190 www.bouldercreeklodgemontana.com</p>	

Place your advertisement in USA TODAY Marketplace!
To advertise, call: 800-397-0070

REAL ESTATE
<p>LAND FOR SALE</p> <p>Looking for land for a new home, a recreational get away or just a good solid investment?</p> <p>Discover Whispering Hills just 15 minutes west of Cheyenne, Wyoming. Fabulous 5-10 acre ranchettes are now being offered from only \$94,800 with low down NO Qualifying, seller financing available. They won’t last long and there is no better buy anywhere! Period!</p> <p>Visit WyomingsBestLandBuy.com or call 888-568-3996 (888-LoveWyo)</p> <p>Brooks Realty & Advisory Group, Steve Amick, Broker</p>

Successful Advertisements start with USA TODAY Marketplace

To advertise, call: 1-800-397-0070

SOLICITATIONS

View our list of solicitations, and click below for more information.




AFFILIATE COMPLIANCE MANAGEMENT

Lead Agency:
Region 14 ESC

Responses Due:
Thursday, July 21st, 2022 2:00 PM CST

[USA Today 06/14/2022](#)
[USA Today 06/21/2022](#)

[REQUEST SOLICITATION](#)



BULK FUEL

Lead Agency:
Region 14 ESC

Responses Due:
Thursday, July 21st, 2022 2:00 PM CST

[USA Today 06/14/2022](#)
[USA Today 06/21/2022](#)

[REQUEST SOLICITATION](#)



COMPLIANCE AND COST-CONTAINMENT STRATEGY AND MANAGEMENT OF HEALTHCARE COSTS

Lead Agency:
Region 14 ESC

Responses Due:
Thursday, July 21st, 2022 2:00 PM CST

[USA Today 06/14/2022](#)
[USA Today 06/21/2022](#)

[REQUEST SOLICITATION](#)



CURB MANAGEMENT TECHNOLOGY

Lead Agency:
Region 14 ESC

Responses Due:
Thursday, July 21st, 2022 2:00 PM CST

[USA Today 06/14/2022](#)
[USA Today 06/21/2022](#)

[REQUEST SOLICITATION](#)



ERP SOFTWARE AND IMPLEMENTATION SERVICES

Lead Agency:
Region 14 ESC

Responses Due:
Thursday, July 21st, 2022 2:00 PM CST

[USA Today 06/14/2022](#)
[USA Today 06/21/2022](#)

[REQUEST SOLICITATION](#)



FURNITURE

Lead Agency:
Region 14 ESC

Responses Due:
Thursday, July 21st, 2022 2:00 PM CST

[USA Today 06/14/2022](#)
[USA Today 06/21/2022](#)

[REQUEST SOLICITATION](#)



INTEGRATED SECURITY TECHNOLOGIES AND SAFETY SYSTEMS PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

Lead Agency:
Region 14 ESC

Responses Due:
Thursday, July 21st, 2022 2:00 PM CST

[USA Today 06/14/2022](#)
[USA Today 06/21/2022](#)

[REQUEST SOLICITATION](#)




ROADWAY MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

Lead Agency:
Region 14 ESC

Responses Due:
Thursday, July 21st, 2022 2:00 PM CST

[USA Today 06/14/2022](#)
[USA Today 06/21/2022](#)

[REQUEST SOLICITATION](#)



SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Lead Agency:
Region 14 ESC

Responses Due:
Thursday, July 21st, 2022 2:00 PM CST

[USA Today 06/14/2022](#)
[USA Today 06/21/2022](#)

[REQUEST SOLICITATION](#)



SOFTWARE AS A SOLUTION FOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

Lead Agency:
Region 14 ESC

Responses Due:
Thursday, July 21st, 2022 2:00 PM CST

[USA Today 06/14/2022](#)
[USA Today 06/21/2022](#)

[REQUEST SOLICITATION](#)



TRAFFIC CONTROL, ENFORCEMENT, & SIGNAL PREEMPTION EQUIPMENT

Lead Agency:
Region 14 ESC

Responses Due:
Thursday, July 21st, 2022 2:00 PM CST

[USA Today 06/14/2022](#)
[USA Today 06/21/2022](#)

[REQUEST SOLICITATION](#)

NCPA
National Cooperative Purchasing Alliance

Is a leading national government purchasing cooperative working to reduce the cost of goods and services by leveraging the purchasing power of public agencies in all 50 states. NCPA utilizes state of the art procurement resources and solutions that result in cooperative purchasing contracts that ensure all public agencies are receiving products and services of the highest quality at the lowest prices.

CONTACT INFORMATION

NCPA
P.O. Box 701273
Houston, TX 77270
(888) 543-6515
info@ncpa.us

CONNECT WITH US


[Twitter](#) [Facebook](#) [LinkedIn](#)

SEND EMAIL

Name

Email

Message

I'm not a robot 

Submit