

U.S. AMATEUR CHAMPION
August 28, 2021



JAMES PIOT

JAMES PIOT: As a golfer and all the history behind him and what he's done for the game and being out here just seeing all the names on the leaderboard, it's surreal. I don't believe it, especially being called by the tournament director, hey, can you show up here, we'd like to have you kind of a guest of the tournament. I'm like yeah, I don't think I'm that big of a deal, but yeah, thank you, I'll be there.

Q. Since winning, what's been the biggest surprise moment? Is it that phone call or is there something else?

JAMES PIOT: As a Spartan, one of the coolest things is hearing from Magic Johnson. He left me a voice mail. So yeah, as a Michigan State guy, that's top notch. Even coaches will come up to me and know my name is a cool thing. I'm enjoying the local things. I had a lot of past champions reach out from the U.S. am, Bryson hit me up on social media, so it's cool. I mean, like I said, don't believe it. Disbelief has been the big word of the week I've given to people, but it's been awesome.

Q. Tom Izzo said Michigan State is now a golf school. Do you have any connection today? Are you going to caddie for him or walk with him? Just talk to him? I don't know, why are you here?

JAMES PIOT: I'll just stop by, say hi. I know he's getting into golf, he loves it.

And do I believe it's a golf school? I don't know, but hopefully we live up to that. Obviously he's done great things for the university and it means a lot hearing something like that from such a legend.

Q. Did you get to meet Jack or Lee, or are you hoping to?

JAMES PIOT: Not yet, but I'm hoping to, yes, sir.

Q. So you could use a connection there?

JAMES PIOT: Yeah, exactly.

Q. Have you thought about what you'll say to Jack and Lee specifically?

JAMES PIOT: I really haven't. Even if I do, it's going to be one of those things, as soon as I shake his hand, it's going right out of my head. No, just see in the moment.

Q. Have you ever played on this course?

JAMES PIOT: I have. So I've played the AJGA, they used to have Randy Wise out here, I believe they moved it now, but I was 2-2 winning that in my career. So it's cool hanging out here and seeing an even bigger event than that out here. Enjoying the experience right now.

Q. What do you like about this course?

JAMES PIOT: Just everything, the facilities, the condition of it, the layout. Obviously it's hosted some big events back in the day and now hosting the Ally. It's phenomenal just being out here on such a cool property.

Q. You now have exemptions into some of the majors and that. That must really have you psyched up, and how's that got you preparing for now and the future?

JAMES PIOT: I keep telling people, one moment at a time is kind of the key here. I'm just taking it week by week. Obviously I would like to put some pounds on and look a little bit more like Rory is what I tell people. DeChambeau is not attainable for a guy whose 5-9 like me, but Rory, it would be nice to look like him and hitting a little longer. Just taking it day by day until then and enjoying the moment while I have it.

Q. Is this about the 100th stop on your world tour here in the last 10 days?

JAMES PIOT: I'd say. I got to today and I'm like, I made it, because I'm going back to school right after this, so back to college golf, back to the grind. So it's been a week of doing a lot of cool stuff and I just miss being on the grind and being out there on the back of the range with my teammates and my buddies, so I'm looking forward to that this week.