



Blessings Golf Club, Fayetteville, Arkansas  
Par 72, 7550 yards

### NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH RECAP – WEDNESDAY, MAY 29, 2019

#### STANFORD WINS 2019 NCAA DIVISION I MEN'S GOLF TEAM NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP Cardinal Claim 9th NCAA Men's Golf Championship

**FAYETTEVILLE, Ark.** – The Stanford Cardinal defeated the Texas Longhorns, 3-2, to win the 2019 NCAA Division I Men's Golf Championship, played at Blessings Golf Club (par 72, 7,550-yards).

With the win, the Cardinal have now won nine NCAA Men's Golf Championships, with this the first since 2007. Other titles came in 1938, '29, '41, '42, '46, '53 and '94.

"Endurance is a big part of it. It's hard to stay focused that whole time, especially on this course," said Stanford coach Conrad Ray. "It's demanding with the turnaround, and we were down early. Our guys hung in there and pushed above Texas. Isaiah (Salinda) and Brandon's (Wu) leadership is huge. They were rock solid all year, so we leaned on them a lot. They left a strong legacy of leadership. I'm happy they could end their career like this because they are a huge part of our success."

Texas got on the board first when Parker Coody sank a par putt on the 13th hole for a 6&5 victory. Coody was up three after nine holes and won holes 10, 11 and 12 before tying the 13th to secure the first point of the day.

Stanford answered as Isaiah Salinda claimed a 4&3 win over freshman Cole Hammer. The match was square through nine holes but Salinda won holes 10, 11, 13 and 14 to go up four with four to play. Salinda and Hammer tied the 15th to give Salinda the win.

"I was super excited to play Cole, I was hoped we'd get paired together," said Salinda. "He's a really good player, one of the best in college, so I was looking forward to it. I knew I was playing well and it would be a good match. It felt good to come out on top. Once you get here, you have to think that you have a chance. The first goal was to make match play, and we got off to a good start in stroke play. Once we made match play, I thought we could win it. It's pretty cool."

Not long afterward, the Cardinal quickly closed out the match. First, Brandon Wu, who never trailed or tied during the final Wednesday, closed out his match with a 4&3 victory over Pierceson Coody. Wu was the only Stanford player to go 3-0 during match play. Moments later, Henry Shimp clinched the third and deciding point with a 2&1 victory over Spencer Soosman.

“It’s crazy, you can’t script a better ending to your career,” said Wu. “This whole week, we knew that every round could be our last so to end on a high note is great. It was definitely tough, but I think we work out really hard. We’ve tried our best all year to stay as fit as possible and I think it really paid off with the quick turnaround. Obviously, everyone is tired so it’s about staying tough mentally and knowing that everyone is digging deep.”

Texas, a team with three freshmen starters fell just short of a fourth national championship.

“It wasn't hard to get up this morning, we were excited to play,” said Texas coach John Fields. “We knew it was going to be a challenge, and we knew that Stanford would come as excited as we were and that they would play their best golf. We were going to have to play ours to win this tournament. They got the better of us this time. Moving forward, I think our team is in great position to capitalize on this momentum and who knows, maybe be one of the favorites coming in. That will be a little bit different feeling. Although I think that our team did a great job this year, five runner-up finishes and great fields at tournaments that we play in and then finishing up with a 20-shot victory at our home in the regional, and bringing that momentum here and then obviously finishing runner-up here. There's a lot of teams in Division I golf that would love to be in our position right now.”

#### **Quarterfinal Match Results – Tuesday, May 28**

##### **(All Times Local CST):**

MATCH 1: #2 Vanderbilt def. #7 Texas A&M, 3-2

MATCH 2: # 6 Stanford def. #3 Wake Forest, 3-2

MATCH 3: #1 Oklahoma State def. #8 SMU, 4-1

MATCH 4: #5 Texas def. #4 Oklahoma, 3-2

#### **Semifinal Matches – Tuesday, May 28**

MATCH 5: Stanford def. Vanderbilt, 3-2

MATCH 6: Texas def. Oklahoma State, 3-2

#### **Championship Final Match – Wednesday, May 29**

MATCH 7: Stanford def. Texas, 3-2

#### **GOLF Channel / NCAA Men’s Golf Championships Wednesday programming schedule (all times Central)**

**3-7 p.m. - NCAA Men’s Golf Championships, Championship Match (Replay)**

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## CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH QUOTES – WEDNESDAY, MAY 29, 2019

### **STANFORD**

#### **CONRAD RAY, STANFORD HEAD COACH**

*On three matches in 27 hours...*

Endurance is a big part of it. It's hard to stay focused that whole time, especially on this course. It's demanding with the turnaround, and we were down early. Our guys hung in there and pushed above Texas.

*On the team's leaders...*

Isaiah and Brandon's leadership is huge. They were rock solid all year, so we leaned on them a lot. They left a strong legacy of leadership. I'm happy they could end their career like this because they are a huge part of our success.

*On his expectations...*

I think we have a lot of strikers in our lineup. So right away we saw that we had to carry the ball a long way and drive it well, which is a strength of ours. One practice round here is tough, so we did a good job at learning as we went and getting better everyday.

#### **ISAIAH SALINDA**

*On the strategy...*

Just win. Obviously, match play is a little different than stroke play so your strategy has to be a little different. Each hole is like a new match, so you have to focus on one shot at a time. Anything can happen, so I just tried to make good shots when it mattered.

*On Cole Hammer...*

I was super excited to play Cole, I was hoped we'd get paired together. He's a really good player, one of the best in college, so I was looking forward to it. I knew I was playing well and it would be a good match. It felt good to come out on top.

*On his expectations...*

Once you get here, you have to think that you have a chance. The first goal was to make match play, and we got off to a good start in stroke play. Once we made match play, I thought we could win it. It's pretty cool.

*On he and Brandon Wu going 3-0 in match play...*

It means a lot to end our careers like that. We put in a lot of work so I'm happy for him too. This is the best way to end our four years here.

## **BRANDON WU**

*On going 3-0 in match play...*

It was good. I was definitely confident heading into match play, even though it's a little different than stroke play. I played well all week so I felt ready to go and help the team win.

*On winning the national championship as a senior...*

It's crazy. You can't script a better ending to your career. This whole week, we knew that every round could be our last so to end on a high note is great.

*On the quick turnaround between matches...*

It was definitely tough, but I think we work out really hard. We've tried our best all year to stay as fit as possible and I think it really paid off with the quick turnaround. Obviously, everyone is tired so it's about staying tough mentally and knowing that everyone is digging deep.

## **DAULET TULEUBAYEV**

*On his parents being here...*

My parents are here from Kazakstan. I have a busy tournament schedule coming up. After we get back, I'll leave for the US Open. My mom is going to get to travel around with me, so it's great. My parents put a lot in to get me to Stanford, so I'm happy they're here.

## **TEXAS**

**John Fields: Texas Head Coach**

**Steven Chervony: Texas Senior**

**Cole Hammer: Texas Freshman**

**Rick Nixon: Moderator**

THE MODERATOR: We are joined by head coach John Fields, University of Texas, Steven Chervony, as well as Cole Hammer is with us.

Coach Fields, if you would, talk about today. Obviously a great tournament for you guys.

COACH JOHN FIELDS: It wasn't hard to get up this morning. We were excited to play. We knew it was going to be a challenge, and we knew that Stanford would come as excited as we were and that they would play their best golf. We were going to have to play ours to win this tournament. They got the better of us this time.

Moving forward, I think our team is in great position to capitalize on this momentum and who knows, maybe be one of the favorites coming in. That will be a little bit different feeling.

Although I think that our team did a great job this year, five runner-up finishes and great fields at tournaments that we play in and then finishing up with a 20-shot victory at our home in the regional, and bringing that momentum here and then obviously finishing runner-up here. There's a lot of teams in Division I golf that would love to be in our position right now.

So as much as it stings us as competitors, having done this for a long time, I know that what we've accomplished this week is not the norm and that it was outstanding.

**Q. With three matches played in basically a 26-hour period, was endurance the biggest challenge today, and the team who had the best endurance was going to have a better shot at getting the job done?**

COACH JOHN FIELDS: I guess that's a possibility. I think you can look back and dissect why it didn't go our way today. I'm sure Oklahoma State is looking back and saying why it didn't go their way and ou is looking back and saying why it didn't go their way.

I prefer just to look forward. There's no reason at this point to -- other than we're going to have as much energy next year when we get here. You do as a coach learn little things as you go along and hopefully refine the way do you things and maybe give these guys an even better opportunity to win.

**Q. Incredible season across the board for all you guys. I guess this one goes to Steven and Coach. What did you see from this team that was so special to compete on a national level like this?**

STEVEN CHERVONY: Just how comfortable they were and how competitive. I just told them five minutes ago, if I was in their position as a freshman, you know, I would have been shaking, and they were ready to go. Ready to win. So that was awesome.

THE MODERATOR: Talk about the first experience being part of the championship and how mentally for it you went.

COLE HAMMER: Well, this week has been incredible. I've watched the NCAAs on TV for the last four or five years and I knew I wanted to be here, and coming here to Texas, I knew I would have that opportunity, and Coach prepared us all year long just for this very moment. It stings right now but it's been a great experience.

Our whole team fought hard. Made clutch shots when it counted and Steven was just an incredible leader for us this year. Kind of picked us up when we weren't playing well and just kept our momentum going. It was a lot of fun being on the same team, Steven, for senior year, and looking forward to the future.

**Q. Yesterday was such a high and you beat the individual champion. Was it a difficult reset after such a long day and such an elation at the end of it? And Steven, could you answer that, too, like the reset from closing out your match last night to knocking off Oklahoma State?**

COLE HAMMER: Beating Oklahoma State was unbelievable. We definitely weren't favored, and the way it all went down me getting Matt and then the way Steven's finished up at the end, it definitely took a lot of energy out of us.

But there's no reason that that carried over to today. We were all excited and pumped to play for a National Championship title this morning. I mean, sure, it took something out of us playing against ou on the same day, but today, we were just excited and had energy, so there's nothing else to that.

STEVEN CHERVONY: Yeah, I don't think it was much of a reset. We just, it almost felt like as soon as we walked off the course yesterday we were back here playing because it was such a quick turnaround.

So I don't think it was a reset. We were ready to go. We were energized. We got off to a great start. Just didn't go our way.

COACH JOHN FIELDS: And these guys will tell you at home, we'll do that at home from time to time. We'll qualify 36 holes one day. The NCAA allows to you do that. It's one round of golf. You just have to count the hours in your 20 hours. We do it from time to time, and we turn around and do it the following morning on a weekend so it doesn't hurt us academically.

We were ready to play today. We just got beat by a really good golf team. That's all there is to it. It will fire us up for next year.

**Q. What impressed you most about Stanford out there today? Was there something that you saw in their players? What stuck out to you that they did well or better than you guys?**

COACH JOHN FIELDS: Well, they have great leadership on their team, just like we do. Comes in different sources. You know, you look at Isaiah Salinda or Brandon Wu, those guys have been around. They are good players. They are among the best players in the world.