
Q. Austin, how would you kind of characterize the round today?

AUSTIN SMOTHERMAN: Just very sharp. I mean, ball control into the greens were great with the wedges. I don't think, I mean all my birdie putts were -- longest one I made was maybe 12, 13 feet. Keeping it in the fairway, hitting wedges close and then followed that up with taking care of the par 5s, getting there in two and some long two-putts.

Q. When you showed up at the golf course today, you kind of knew that this might be the day to kind of take advantage and post that low number, did you feel like you had to go out and shoot something good today?

AUSTIN SMOTHERMAN: Yeah, I mean, you always want to start off any tournament with a low number and then you get these conditions, we're second off. Pace is great. I think that group ahead of us was playing so fast just so that they could play as many holes as possible with no wind in case it was going to pick up.

To get one on the last, I mean, kind of internally told myself and told my caddie a little bit that after turning in six, getting three more would be great. Obviously another six, do something crazy. And to get the one on the last was very nice.

Q. You came to the Wyndham last year on the bubble 125, obviously didn't go your way, but obviously with everything that happened afterwards you kept your card. When you came out this fall, what was kind of your mentality? Did you feel like it was kind of a blessing or did you feel like OK, this is great, now I can hopefully keep rolling and get going?

AUSTIN SMOTHERMAN: Yeah, you know, fortunately and unfortunately, I'm kind of comfortable in that position being kind of on the bubble. I've had it kind of throughout my entire career now. I think the best things for me was once I knew those guys were going to be leaving and having those extra two weeks off before Napa just to mentally reset, I mean, we're finishing the year grinding. And then obviously to have what happened at Wyndham, let that sink in, use that as some motivation coming out. So a good offseason with some time off with some really good work especially with these last two weeks off not getting into ZOZO or CJ, so I knew Bermuda was going to be my next start. Plan to play these next three out to finish the season, or finish the fall season. We're doing a lot of good things so just keep doing what we're doing.

Q. What was the main work that you did maybe over the last couple weeks on your game?

AUSTIN SMOTHERMAN: I mean, so much putting and then just prep for this course with wedges. It showed today, I mean, hitting it close, but so many shots from 150 and in out here. You take care of those, you hit a few good long irons on these par 3s and par 5s, you're going to have plenty of chances at 6, 7, 8, 9 under. Depends on the wind. Wind picks up, you never know. You've got to control your ball out here, for sure.

Q. Even with the wind, though, you live in Dallas, you went to SMU, I know you're from California but you spent a lot of time down there, the wind kicks up there quite a bit, so you feel comfortable if the conditions get a little --

AUSTIN SMOTHERMAN: Oh, I enjoy windy conditions. Actually even this past weekend in Dallas, I played the member-guest at my home course, Trinity Forest, and so a nice little segue for me to give them a shout-out for the Crony, but we played that and we had our greens rolling maybe 13 and it blew 25, 30 all weekend. I was thinking I was coming here, getting these conditions, it's almost the opposite of what I just had. I was like come on, where's the wind? Like we were just practicing that.

Yeah, good prep. Living in Dallas, you never know. As windy as it gets translates to the islands nicely.

Q. When you say wedges were dialed in here, maybe give us a couple of examples of two holes that you hit it closest with.

AUSTIN SMOTHERMAN: Oh, gosh. I mean, well, I had a 10:00 pitching wedge I think four times today and I hit it inside of eight feet every time with No. 6, No. 18 as well as No. 5 a little bit.

Q. And on the other end of it, were there one or two holes where you made a putt that you didn't expect to make maybe? What sort of lengths were they and where?

AUSTIN SMOTHERMAN: Not really. My two-putts on the par 5s were from the fringe or from a good distance, but my lag speed was pretty good. The one that I left five, six feet short was on 7 today from the left side of the green there after kind of a tugged 4-iron, which I wasn't too happy with. I left it like five, six feet short. Not to get that one on the pace we were at, I was like that would have been a little bit of a speed bump, but poured that one in. And then yeah, made par on 8 and hit one close out of the rough. The shot on 9, I don't know what it did up there at the green because it's so uphill, but I mean, I had the ball well below my feet chopping it and after a drive that went left, I kind of got away with some misses today, so even sharper off the tee, I think I could have hit it a little bit better.

Q. You made your first three cuts in your first three starts this season. Making cuts is great, but how would you assess that?

AUSTIN SMOTHERMAN: Yeah, no, my coach and I, we spent, and my caddie, we all



looked at the numbers, three shots, any of my first three cuts made moves from 25th in Napa to 6th, 60th to 30th and 65th to 30th, so how do we find three shots a tournament and it's some of these wedges. I was missing these wedges short-sided, that's what I did at Shriners kind of all week. And so out here, I mean, you could probably get away with out here, softer greens and you kind of can get some nippy spots, but most spots, you're missing the greens short-sided and you're done. Tighten that up and it showed today.

Q. You might have mentioned this earlier, I can't remember, but you played here once, you missed the cut last year.

AUSTIN SMOTHERMAN: Yeah.

Q. What did you learn from that to bring it here this year and have the form (inaudible) from the golf course?

AUSTIN SMOTHERMAN: Yeah, just, I mean, chipping in bermuda. I play on zoysia in Dallas and we get some bermuda spots. I spent some more time this past week in finding little bermuda patches on the course just to go get ready for it because it's a very interesting grass to chip and pitch off of. You get it wet and soft like we have out here and you can't play certain shots. You're going to hit some pitches with pitching wedges and 9-iron this week if you've got a little grainy spot. So just getting comfortable with the grass and it's a beautiful spot so enjoy the views.

Q. What does it feel like to finally have the lowest round of your career?

AUSTIN SMOTHERMAN: Good, let's go better tomorrow, why not. We've still got room.

