
Q. How would you characterize the round today?

AUSTIN SMOTHERMAN: More difficult than yesterday, but I mean, I'm very pleased with where we finished up, 4 under today in these conditions I'm happy with, and we only left some out there with a couple three-putts. Regardless of conditions, like to keep those off the card, but happy to be playing where we're at going into the weekend. Still a lot of golf left.

Q. This was tougher than yesterday, but you got off to a pretty good start there on your front nine, the back nine.

AUSTIN SMOTHERMAN: Yeah.

Q. Was it just made more difficult kind of the middle of that round, kind of the early back nine got a little tricky?

AUSTIN SMOTHERMAN: Yeah, I mean, shots get tricky. I think mostly I was very, very confident with the putter early. I think that's something that kind of frees me up out here when conditions are like this, you cannot think technical thoughts at all. Wind's blowing your putter around, you've just got to figure out how to find the center of the face, start it online and hopefully got the right speed. Speed is one thing I kind of struggled with today because of how much rain we got, grain's changing, greens are getting soft and slower, so you can hit it as hard as you want and it's probably not going past the hole.

Q. Do you feel like you're more of a feel or a technical type player?

AUSTIN SMOTHERMAN: Definitely more of a feel player.

Q. Do these conditions kind of maybe help you then a little bit?

AUSTIN SMOTHERMAN: Yes, definitely. Growing up without a ton of instruction when I was younger, so my first coach was when I got to college with Cameron McCormick and he's been able to kind of coach me in such a way that I feel I understand the technical parts, but I'm still -- and my feels, that's how he describes different positions and things like that. He knows my game well, so nice to see the work we're doing paying off.

Q. I was watching you a little bit out there and on your -- in the practice swings, I saw a little -- I know you work with Cameron, so I saw a little maybe of how Jordan kind of works on a few things.

AUSTIN SMOTHERMAN: Yeah.

Q. Is that -- am I seeing that right?

AUSTIN SMOTHERMAN: Yeah, it might be somewhat similar to that. It's nowhere just a blueprint what he's trying to coach him the same he's coaching me, but I'd say we're somewhat similar players. The feels I'm getting, I'm just trying to feel a little bit laid off to help me get a little bit more left down at the bottom, and if I'm on my left side, I'm able to just kind of just let the face stay neutral. So if I'm down and left, good things are happening. In this wind, keeping everything stable, that's key.

Q. You've talked about being kind of that bubble guy.

AUSTIN SMOTHERMAN: Oh, yeah.

Q. Korn Ferry Tour, PGA TOUR. But you obviously had a lot of success as an amateur, in college and then out here as a professional as well to be in those positions. Where do you kind of go back when you're in positions like this where you're in contention, where do you go back and kind of think about to maybe help you along the way during those rounds?

AUSTIN SMOTHERMAN: I mean, I think being out here, even being a bubble guy in those situations, you have to play really well to put yourself in that. So I think everything I'm doing up to the point in my career's been something to draw on. I mean, just the fact we're playing the PGA TOUR, lifelong dream of mine. I mean, to be able to kind of look up and see everybody and, you know, you guys are interviewing us afterwards, this is the real deal, this is the top tier of golf.

You know, I've had wins in the past. If it comes down to having to draw on those, I'm not sure exactly what I'm going to fall back on yet, but you know, we keep our head down and play the golf we know we can and hopefully everything else is in the rear view.

Q. Is there an example of a hole out there today that played completely different from what it was yesterday to you?

AUSTIN SMOTHERMAN: Probably a few.

Q. Is there a good one that you can kind of give us a comparison?

AUSTIN SMOTHERMAN: Yeah, just compare and contrast?

Q. Yeah.

AUSTIN SMOTHERMAN: I mean, No. 9 just now playing up the hill, yesterday was driver over the bunker, no problem, kind of semi downwind off the right. Today, I mean, it's a little



bit in off the right and you're hitting a drive that's at the bunker -- hopefully it gets over, probably not -- and I end up hooking it actually left of the bunker. I got a good break and I'm hitting 9-iron in there from 117 where yesterday I had 10 -- that's to a front pin and yesterday I had 107 to a back pin and I hit like a little soft 50 degrees. So, two, three club difference with a 30-yard gap in between, 9 was a big difference today.

