

ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTES
October 22, 2026

BEN SILVERMAN (-8)



Q. Ben, nice way to start the week, 8-under 63. Felt like you were pretty lucky having that early tee time and getting through it?

BEN SILVERMAN: Yeah, it didn't look that way. I had breakfast, talking with some of the guys, I don't have rain gear here and rained into the whole warmup. I was wearing my caddie's rain jacket. We got lucky, 16 holes with no rain as soon as we teed off.

Q. You played here last year, missed the cut. What did you learn from last year that obviously helped you today?

BEN SILVERMAN: Partly I was honestly in a different head space last year. I was not wanting to play the tournament just because I was tired, long season. Complete opposite mindset this time. I want to be here, I want to win, so that mindset shift kind of set the tone since Monday.

Q. I need to ask you about the putter that you're using. Was there inspiration from Tony Finau who's using a similar putter or how did that come about and when did that start?

BEN SILVERMAN: Actually I hadn't heard about Caliber Golf until I saw Tony in Utah. He was finishing up on the putting green, his caddie as about to put the putter away. I was like, let me see that, one second. What is that? It's hockey, right up my alley, I'm a big hockey guy, love it.

Contacted Tim at Caliber Golf, he had it turned around in like six days for me and the feeling was awesome. It's fun for me playing with a hockey stick as my grip for the putter and it was rolling great today.

Q. Do you think that it's rolling great because it's fun or do you think it's fundamentally --

BEN SILVERMAN: Maybe.

Q. -- something different?

BEN SILVERMAN: I also had it on Quintic fitting system in Florida with my buddy J.J. and it rolled -- the numbers matched and it rolled great. So I had the confidence of that, that it was putting a good roll on the ball.



Q. You're in sort of a difficult position, 139th in the FedEx standings. You had a nice finish at ISCO earlier in the year but this season's been different for you. What are you hoping to get out of the fall here?

BEN SILVERMAN: I mean, I want to get inside the top-100, which I know is going to be win or a second or two top-5s or something like that.

I don't look at it as a tough spot to be in, my game has actually been getting better. I've just had a lot of missed cuts where I missed by one and I was right there and the game felt good. I missed four cuts in a row right after ISCO playing that well. I've just been -- I started getting down on myself, just continuing to work in Florida and try to get the swing better and try to keep getting a win out here.

Q. You talked a little bit about your headspace, and you've referenced it throughout your career but staying shot for shot. Is that harder to do at this stage of your career with the events running out closer to the finish?

BEN SILVERMAN: I honestly think it's easier to do at this stage in my career. I've been trying to work towards that type of process for so many years. Now I get it at 39 and I'm more comfortable doing it. I've had a lot of years out here and I feel like I'm going to have more, so I'm not putting pressure on myself, just trying to keep getting better and trying to get a win.

Q. What sort of techniques do you use to stay in the moment when you're trying to understand that and be in that moment?

BEN SILVERMAN: I mean, it's been a lot of conversations with coaches and my wife and reading books. The only way to achieve what you want to do is to do the process of each shot well. It's what it always comes down to.

So the more I'm clear on that, big picture goal is I know what I want to do so then let's just take care of each shot. I was doing a good job of that today.

Q. A Canadian was leading here last year after the first round, we've had a lot of international winners -- not a Canadian, it's a long way off, but how meaningful would it be to maybe get across the line and international winner here in Bermuda?

BEN SILVERMAN: That would be fantastic, I would love to. 2028 Olympics would be a nice goal, too. I've been wanting to be one of the top Canadians since 2020, so I'm still pushing to try to be one of them.

Q. Excellent round, bogey free. Could you just talk about the momentum that you build after starting hot and then just continuing to push down the pedal? How are you able to stay so consistent throughout the entire round?



BEN SILVERMAN: When you start that way and things are rolling nicely, it's easier to continue that way in a good mindset, seeing another putt go in. Made a long one on a par 3 from like 35 feet where you're not expecting to make it. It just feels easier to keep the momentum going in that case. Had pretty calm weather too, so I wasn't battling that.

Q. And then back to the putter, can you just explain from a technical standpoint what does the longer grip actually do for you physically or is it really just an aesthetic thing?

BEN SILVERMAN: So the hockey stick blade is flat on both sides. I like to have the putter grip in the palms, lifelines in my hands anyways so it fits perfectly in my palms.

I do a double interlock left-hand low grip, but you can literally hold it anywhere as long as your palms are on it and you're going to be square to the face, so that's what I like about it.

