ROUND 3 QUICK QUOTES
October 24, 2026

AUSTIN SMOTHERMAN (-16)

BUTTERFIELD BERMUDA CHAMPIONSHIP

Q. Austin, nice round of golf, 66. Got off to great start and then you hung on down the stretch. If we can get some comments.

AUSTIN SMOTHERMAN: Yeah, that was kind of the tale of today. Once we turned, I felt like the wind just kept picking up. No. 11 tee shot was kind of the first one where we were really like, wow, it's on another level now, these next few holes aren't going to be what we're used to seeing these last couple days.

So super simple shots in our mind, the way my caddie and I were discussing through things. I mean, middle of the green, leaving ourselves into the wind when we can if you're out of position and just going to some simple shots and know that weird things are going to happen. You know, like we catch the cart path on 13 and we end up in a good spot. Feels like a bad shot but we were doing OK. Yeah, front nine was hot, that was fun.

Q. Take us through that stretch if you can starting with the birdie on 1.

AUSTIN SMOTHERMAN: Yeah, birdie on 1. I mean, you warm up downwind, you turn around, I hit a good 3-wood right down the middle, a little punchy 140 feel pitching wedge to like seven, eight feet underneath it and make that.

No. 3 was just a nice little again another chippy pitching wedge this time downwind, and I mean making a little uphill right-to-lefter that barely got to the hole, but a little swinging right-to-lefter putt there that goes in, that was nice.

Then good par on 4, which is always a tough hole. And 5 was just two good swings again, 3-wood to just a little punchy 90-yard feel with 60-degree that gets up there to three or four feet right behind it. I mean, exactly how we're trying to play the hole there.

The par-5 7, that tee ball's pretty fun downwind, trying to just ship it over that middle last bunker, stay fairway and a little pulled 9-iron right on the flag. I thought it was going to be good, I didn't think it'd be that close, but that was a second shot we're just trying to hit middle of the green and just got lucky I pulled it.

Q. And then after the birdie on 15, take us through those last three holes if you can.

AUSTIN SMOTHERMAN: Yeah. Well, 15 tee ball was another one that you've just got to take care of that felt good. Yeah, 16 was just tough to club. There's so many different ways when the wind's blowing like this that you can hit that shot into 155 yards and 150's front edge, and if you can keep it right, fairway's fine, but it just feels like you want to get in the

middle of the green. Felt like the second I got that thing on the wind it was just gone. Chippy 7-iron that stays overly down, and then I was just happy to get that bunker shot into a spot that I could two-putt from really. It was not a good spot at all.

That was 16, but we kind of had to reset. We know 17's a birdie hole. We were about to hit driver, we saw Ben Kohles not cover the bunker on what we thought was a pretty good swing, so we thought just making two simple shots again into 17, not getting anything weird and squirrely, having to grind for a 5 on an easier hole. So we hit hybrid up the left and got an OK lie in the rough. That just meant we're gonna try and shift 3-wood into the middle of the green or long and it just came out overly low. Hits that hill, goes into an OK spot, but that chip's just going to run out. A good 15-footer's tap-in 5, we're happy with that.

And then hit in the fairway on 18 doesn't necessarily mean that hole's any easier, it's just hard and off the right with an upslope lie. It just gets going left quick. A little bit nervous, I backed off a couple times partly just because of the wind but also just kind of thinking about is Saturday our last hole of the week. Felt like I don't know if it got to me or something, but it's also like we need to just make one more good swing and then to get that up and down was pretty nice. The chip was really good.

Q. How hard is that to stay in the present when you don't know what the next day or two possibly look like?

AUSTIN SMOTHERMAN: I know. It's just been the talk, the talk of everybody all week, what Sunday's forecast has been. I don't think it's gotten any better. You know, take care of step one, making the cut. Go get into contention on Saturday and see what happens. But here we are actually doing that. That was the goal start of the week.

Now we get to rest a little bit tonight and whatever tomorrow brings, we'll be ready. But staying in the present was not necessarily easy because it's Saturday feeling like a Sunday's an odd feeling as well.

Q. Talk a little bit about your background of playing in the wind and how that can help.

AUSTIN SMOTHERMAN: Yeah, no doubt I feel like I've always been a good wind player. Just getting to Dallas and just Texas in general being windy, but I feel like I've always had kind of a lower ball flight and am comfortable hitting some really, really low shots when needed, some chippy drivers, some offspeed shots.

It's one thing I've worked on kind of in my game a lot, just controlling it in the wind. You kind of get to be an artist a little bit more, use the wind if you really want to. Also just kind of the challenge of getting the wind right and that, you know, playing back and forth with Zach, my caddie, I feel like it's just a different type of golf that I enjoy playing.

Q. You just won in Utah. How much fun is golf for you right now?

AUSTIN SMOTHERMAN: It's pretty wild. I was back and forth on playing Bermuda had I gone to Japan and then would have taken that week to enjoy our win and rest the body and get ready for this week.

It's a week I look forward to, so to come play the way we are is pretty nice. I haven't grinded overly hard this past week. A couple solid days with my coach and then got here, just enjoying the island conditions and go play a practice round, play a pro-am and go and here we are.

Q. So what's the plan tonight?

AUSTIN SMOTHERMAN: We're going back to the same spot for dinner.

Q. Where is that?

AUSTIN SMOTHERMAN: Devil's Isle.

Q. Good spot.

AUSTIN SMOTHERMAN: Yes, really good. We enjoyed it last night, so get a group together, make the walk, you know, get to bed at a decent hour, early wake-up tomorrow, see what's going on.