PLAYOFF QUICK QUOTE
October 26, 2026

AUSTIN SMOTHERMAN (-16, won playoff)

BUTTERFIELD BERMUDA CHAMPIONSHIP

Q. Austin, congratulations on the victory here at the Butterfield Bermuda Championship in 2026. We all know you won in Utah just four weeks ago in your last start. I guess I'll just ask you how surreal has this period been for the last month?

AUSTIN SMOTHERMAN: Yeah, we knew we were doing a lot of good stuff and just wanted to go play golf. We were excited for the fall season. We had our best FedExCup finish ever and the fall we felt was just going to be bonus golf and do things like this, and to have it come true and live this out now not once but twice in that short time frame is, I mean, I couldn't have drawn it up. It's a fairytale really right now.

Q. Given the weather challenges we had here, how did you spend the last 24 hours after play was canceled on Sunday?

AUSTIN SMOTHERMAN: Gosh, tried to sleep in, ordered some breakfast to the room. Luckily some football was on yesterday. Walked into town, went and had lunch at an Irish pub. Then just really twiddled our thumbs around the hotel walking around. Called my family probably five different times.

Then last night slept OK, ready to wake up and leave the hotel at 7:00 this morning. A brief modified warmup and then we played that hole how many times, three times.

Q. Talk about that warmup. I don't know, did you start on the range and then move out to 15?

AUSTIN SMOTHERMAN: I did, started on the range, hit some wedges, hit some shots. Then we went out there to 15 and were able to hit some similar wind directions. And we had GCQuad down, that was able to kind of see what some numbers were doing. The wind on the range was tough, I'm glad we weren't playing straight into the breeze on 16 today, that would have been wild, but off the left was manageable.

Q. You hit first in the playoff on the first hole. What was that feeling like? The wind was steaming off the left on that first hole.

AUSTIN SMOTHERMAN: Yeah, it's one that you have to be in your mind OK trying to hit it in the water. I told Zach I was trying to hit the cameraman on the back left edge of the green and you saw that ball finished up right side. That was how disconnected feel and real was. I'm glad it got past that front bunker, which I figured it would be. I wasn't sure how the lie was going to be in the rough there but it was actually sitting up kind of nice, able to catch a lot of ball and then just get it rolling like a putt.

I mean, honestly, I think my favorite shot or one of my best shots, we didn't hit many putts this morning warming up so putting was just going to be a super modified thing where hopefully you don't the eight-footer for par or something in this playoff.

Seamus made a great putt for par from the bunker save, but that lag putt I hit on the second hole, that's just straight down to feel, walk it off and just trust your abilities. There's no practicing that this morning or being comfortable, even throughout the week really having to putt that long, so that was nice to get that to kick in and you put a little bit of pressure back on him.

Q. Yeah, that was really impressive. Talk about the clubs you hit. Did you hit the same club every --

AUSTIN SMOTHERMAN: Same club every time.

Q. What was it?

AUSTIN SMOTHERMAN: 8-iron trying to hit just little low draws and get it to stand up in the wind a little bit to those front ones a little smoother, and then the back pin being OK if I really back foot drew it a little bit more. And both times, I mean never really hit the exact shot I wanted, but it's also at the mercy of just whatever the wind's doing when your ball gets in the air.

Q. So the yardage for the first two holes was 178 and then --

AUSTIN SMOTHERMAN: And 152.

Q. But you hit the same club?

AUSTIN SMOTHERMAN: Same club, yeah, yeah. I felt like depending on how you try to flight the wind, you could get 170 out of it to that back pin and I didn't really want to have a chance of going super deep because if got on the wind and the wind shifted down for just a second, it gets long right in a hurry if I'm hitting especially one more club.

Seamus was hitting a chip 7 to the back pin, but you saw how much he was trying to really draw it and hold it against the wind, and he was actually keeping it left of the pin which I didn't think was possible honestly. I thought both those shots when they came off were going to be better than where they finished left edge. I was OK getting the wind to take over and try to get it to move back right some just to know that second shot if it got right was back into the wind and maybe a little bit easier.

Q. I don't know if it felt like it for you, but for us standing up on the hill there the wind really changed after the second hole, it felt like it just died away.

AUSTIN SMOTHERMAN: It did. In that case I was so comfortable with that little punch 8-iron, that second or third shot I guess to the front pin. I had just hit that shot on the second playoff hole six feet behind the dot for the changeover and jokingly I told Tripp walking up, I was like I just hit this shot, like let's just go do it again. Good contact, got it left of the pin but it still had some right fall on the wind.

Q. Do you feel like you're a bit of a poster child for others now having gone 99 starts without a victory and now going bang bang and winning your next two?

AUSTIN SMOTHERMAN: I mean --

Q. What sort of advice would you give to others that are in that situation that haven't won yet?

AUSTIN SMOTHERMAN: It can literally happen at any time. We say it every week, everybody out here's so good, anybody can win on any given week. That's what makes our sport so great.

There's Scottie Schefflers of the world that know how to win a lot more frequently every single year, but I think I'm getting a little bit of a taste of what they feel, a top player like that as far as just so much freedom every single week and feeling like what you're doing, you're getting the validation with the results but also just the immense trust you have in the process that you've devised.

I've been a professional now for 10 years and I feel like I've put a lot of notches in my belt with different skills and things that help pay off at the end of the week.

Q. You talked to Gabby on the Golf Channel interview about the necklace that you had. Can you tell us that story?

AUSTIN SMOTHERMAN: Yeah. it's just my dad's necklace with a little arrowhead that he used to wear forever. He passed a couple years ago. I always have it in my golf bag. The week in Utah it had somehow come out and didn't have it. I wear it sporadically when I feel like I want him a little closer to me and this week was one of those weeks where I know he would have loved it here. To get a win here and be thinking about him all week was pretty cool.

Q. Can you kind of put into words too, your trajectory now is completely different. Before Utah you were kind of like --

AUSTIN SMOTHERMAN: Always there's a question mark somewhere, yeah.

Q. -- and now you're '28, '29 Championship Series exempt. How do you put that into words?

AUSTIN SMOTHERMAN: I don't know. This was just our first week playing with what feels like some surety around everything.

Going forward, I don't know what the next step is. My goals, just after Utah, it kind of shifted on giving ourselves the best chance on moving inside the top-50 in the world by the end of the year and pursuing some majors next year. Getting to play the first two Signature Events was huge. Just being a West Coast guy, I wanted to play those events badly. Once they went to Signature Events, I played them beforehand and then I wasn't qualifying for them so I kind of had a little bit of some fire in my belly to go get back there.

And my caddie, Zach, is from Pebble Beach. He was a caddie there for a long time before he got on Tour 20 years ago. Now our goal shift as much as it was to go play the Signature Pebble week, it was let's figure out a way go get ourselves into the U.S. Open at Pebble, which can be done through world ranking.

Just continue to do our process and stick to our things that we've tried to do every single week of our career together, which has been two and a half years. We've got a good thing going. We've won five times together now in the last 17, 18 months, three on the Korn Ferry last year -- not three, four times, sorry, two on the Korn Ferry last year.

And that was the thing too, we won last year in June in three starts; win, win, 12th, win. It's like golf, good stretches come in bunches and you just try and let go and just be free.

Q. Did you feel different coming into this week? You just mentioned freed you up having that status. Like did you sense the difference in the feeling in the way that you played or the way that you carried yourself or the way that your body worked or the way that your mind worked just having been a winner to be able to do it again immediately?

AUSTIN SMOTHERMAN: Yeah, I think I was kind of excited that my first start back was going to be this week knowing the conditions are going to be extreme.

Yeah, we got benign conditions, but it's still windy Bermuda golf with a lot of things moving around. Yes, you can score on this golf course, but you still have to hit the golf shots and make some putts, which I was doing.

But I think the acceptance level was a bit higher when there's so many factors out of your control that if I came here and shot 74-74 and went home, I would have been OK as well. It's not a typical week as far as prep and practice. We just took things slow, got here Sunday night and Monday practiced, Tuesday we played four holes until the storm got called off and we went in. Didn't even play the front nine after that, we just played the pro-am the next day. I've been here before.

Things like that, being comfortable making those choices is that freedom that I'm experiencing. I have that belief that I'm going to be able to go make contact and find the golf

ball and keep doing it again and again and focus for those 72 holes, this week being 54 plus three, so 57 holes.

Q. Talk about that last putt. A three-and-a-half footer is never easy.

AUSTIN SMOTHERMAN: No, no. Back up the hill sort of grainy right edge putt, inside right edge. Just get it started online, hit it firm enough. I mean, my hands were pretty loose, I felt like they were shaking maybe just a little bit.

That first putt, I know it's fast and it's downwind, all the things to just tap it but it was like, are you really about to leave this short? Felt like you couldn't -- I just wanted to get it started, and I kind of ripped it and get a little bit of wind and it goes to three feet. Seamus' chip shot was not an easy spot, it sat down pretty good. Then I had to go through kind of just the mindset of I'm still going to have to make this putt, he's going to get it up and down. Then he hits a poor chip. Yes, he's got a chance at 4 now, but he makes that putt, I've got to be ready for that, not just lagging it down there, so I think that's kind of where my mind was at.

Q. Do you recall what he said to you when you finished?

AUSTIN SMOTHERMAN: Seamus?

Q. Yeah.

AUSTIN SMOTHERMAN: I think he just said good job. Nothing out of the ordinary, but I don't know what was going on really honestly.

Q. Austin, you had some nervy moments in Utah and then again you have a playoff now, both of your wins. In moments like that when your keeping down the clutch, how do you stay sharp and focused?

AUSTIN SMOTHERMAN: Gosh, just falling back on our routine and conversations with Zach out there. We talk about staying in our bubble. Walking between shots we can get out of it, do our things, but we always kind of come back in, create that little zone where we execute shots to the best of our ability and then they stay there, and we move on and do it again and again and again.

The week in Utah taught me probably a few things, but that was still a week where it was like needing to make some birdies coming down the stretch.

Here on Saturday I was figuring out how to make pars in this wind so it was kind of a different mentality than making birdies, but easy pars felt like birds on Saturday. And then the good up-and-down on 18 to get into the playoff to even to have a chance is pretty special.

Q. You have two wins now, fall's starting to wind down. Just curious, how are you

going to keep the momentum going into next season?

AUSTIN SMOTHERMAN: I think just try and enjoy my offseason. Check a lot of boxes, relax a little bit, celebrate my 10-year wedding anniversary in December so we've got a trip planned for that. I think the schedule's kind of firming up what we're going to do to start the season. I definitely want to start at AmEx and play the West Coast stuff and go from there. I'm excited.

Q. What's your celebration look like? I know you've got a flight a little later this afternoon.

AUSTIN SMOTHERMAN: Flight today through Charlotte, get home tonight. Girls will be sleeping, maybe wake them up, see what we decide to do.

Then we already had this following week a party planned at the house, taco truck and get some family and friends over and whatnot. Now we're going to be celebrating two of them.

Q. You did a little quick FaceTime with the family before coming in there. What was the --

AUSTIN SMOTHERMAN: They were asking me what the triangle, let me see the triangle. So it's good practice for our shapes, we're doing that. And we're excited bringing home another trophy as well.

Q. What's the rest of the fall look like for you?

AUSTIN SMOTHERMAN: Mexico Open off, which is the week I was looking forward to playing. Just not going to happen now. Sad about that, but I love the Mexico Golf Federation and those guys. Cabo was going to be a week off to give myself the week before Austin and RSM. So I'll have two weeks off, play Austin and RSM and be done for the fall.

Q. Congratulations again. Great champion, two in a row. Things are looking good for you, Austin.

AUSTIN SMOTHERMAN: 100 and 101, let's go.