

Q. Smylie, 68, great round today. If we can get some comments.

SMYLIE KAUFMAN: Yeah, the whole week really was good for me just starting to move in the right direction. It was nice to see the results kind of pay off because I've been working real hard. The game's kind of been trending the right way. It kind of started in San Antonio, I kind of grinded out a cut there. Played well last week in New Orleans, just kind of a funky I format. And this week I knew if I just drive the ball well and put myself in the fairways, I really like the looks into the greens and I really felt comfortable on the greens the entire week from the speed aspect as far as reading them. So game felt awesome all week and really very pleased with the way it finished out.

Q. What's clicked these last few weeks?

SMYLIE KAUFMAN: What's clicked? I just think the process of all the things I've been working on. I wouldn't say anything's clicked. It's just started to kind of trend that way and I think my confidence, some swagger, the way I kind of walk on the golf course and just feel about my game, it's probably the think that's clicked. I wouldn't say anything golf related has clicked, I think it's just kind of my mind and the way I go about my business.

Q. You're the leader in the clubhouse.

SMYLIE KAUFMAN: Yeah, I saw that. It's nice to be leading at something. I've been leading to the airport recently, so it's nice to have my game trending in the right way. I really am, I'm excited about what's ahead and just feel like if I just kind of keep at it and keep working hard and just keep giving myself opportunities. I've had plenty of experiences to draw from, and there's going to be a time this year where I'll have another opportunity to win and hopefully I can just reflect on my past experiences and go get it.

Q. Maybe THE PLAYERS next week?

SMYLIE KAUFMAN: PLAYERS would be a good start. I think I've got a lot of work to do actually. That's a golf course that really, I think, you've got to find the fairways out there. So I'm going to be working on a little low ball next week, trying to get the ball in the fairways, just something to just chase it down. It's going to be hot and it's going to be real firm, so definitely got some work to do early part of next week, but it's always a fun week at THE PLAYERS.

Q. You really got it rolling early. How much fun is it when you get on that roll and you feel like you're right there in contention?

SMYLIE KAUFMAN: Yeah, obviously Sunday, anytime you get off to a hot start, guys

typically don't go quite as low on Sundays for the most part. My goal was to shoot 5 on the front, I was two short of that. I had two putts that just kind of barely missed on 3 and 7. I feel like if I shoot 5 on the front and maybe shoot 2 or 3 on the back, heck, I was going to be right there. And I was actually surprised that I was as close as I was, but the guys are pretty far behind me. But I feel like when I got to 9, who knows. But I'm very excited to have grinded it out the last five holes. I think I had five up-and-downs, so I was really kind of struggling there at the end but was able to grind something out.

Q. You mentioned TPC. Did you like the course the first time you played it?

SMYLIE KAUFMAN: Yeah, I played last year. I had a wrist injury last year and I wasn't very prepared and didn't feel like my preparation gave me really a chance at all. I really do think the layout, it gives you an opportunity to be aggressive when you want to go win a golf tournament. I love that aspect. If you have a chance to go win the golf tournament, you can make up ground on the field because if you're playing timid out there, you can make bogeys and doubles really fast on that back nine. But you can easily make birdies and whatnot if you're making the charge and feeling confident and maybe not in that last group and just go and post a number and sit, because on that golf course, there's nothing safe about a lead there.

Q. Thoughts on Eagle Point and Wilmington?

SMYLIE KAUFMAN: This is probably one of my favorite weeks probably on Tour. It's funny because I thought Wilmington, when people were asking if you're going to play Wells Fargo, I said yeah, I'm going to play Wells Fargo, going to play Charlotte. They're like, no, it's Wilmington. I was like, uhhh, okay, whatever. I just figured Wilmington was like a suburb of Charlotte. I happened to go on the maps about two weeks ago and noticed that it's on the coast, and thought oh, God.

So I ended up staying in a house, and my girlfriend, she didn't come. She felt like this is a good off week, a week for her to not come and come to THE PLAYERS. I get here, I'm staying at a beach house on Figure Eight and I sent her a picture where I was staying and she's not happy with me because it's one of the most beautiful places I think I've ever been.

Q. When you looked at the map, did you think, oh, I don't want to go there?

SMYLIE KAUFMAN: No, because I heard amazing things about the golf course. I just didn't connect the dots that Wilmington was not even close to Charlotte. And I'm typically really good at geography and kind of where things are located. Nobody's ever really told me about Wilmington back in Alabama, so it's not a place that I guess people in -- Alabamans, whatever, we don't typically vacation out this way, we go south, so I just wasn't familiar with the area.