

PRICE CUTTER CHARITY CHAMPIONSHIP
presented by Dr. Pepper

ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTE
July 20, 2023

ROB OPPENHEIM (-7)



Q. After playing a couple practice rounds out here, what did you think about the course and how you performed today?

ROB OPPENHEIM: Yeah, it's obviously a great start. I've played here -- this has been my 10th or 11th time playing this event, so I've played here a lot, so I kind of knew what to expect, knew I had to go low. It was a little difficult this morning with the rain, played nine holes in constant -- it wasn't too bad, but it was just constant rain, had the umbrella up, so played a little bit more challenging. Then it cleared up for our back nine, the sun came out and shot 6 under on the back nine. My back nine was the front nine so took advantage of the good conditions.

This is a course where the greens are soft with that rain, kind of soft coming into the week so you're going to have to go low, you're going to have to shoot something like that, 20-plus under to win. It's good to get off to a good start though.

Q. Talking about the highlight of your round there, right? Six under on the back, the eagle comes on 8, your 17th hole. What was it about the back side that just clicked, the halting of the rain or just you made one swing and said that's it?

ROB OPPENHEIM: I think the weather was the big thing. I played pretty solid to shoot 1 under on the front when conditions were difficult and then I think it started drying up and played significantly easier without the rain. Made a couple putts, made an eagle on the eighth hole, which is my 17th hole, a couple good things happened, so take advantage of the good conditions.

Q. You know that golf is an adventure in every swing, so how will you carry this momentum going forward and keep the good vibes rolling?

ROB OPPENHEIM: Yeah, you're going to have to out here because the conditions are perfect in the afternoon. I'm sure someone can shoot 8 or 9, 10 under's potentially out there. I think the conditions are pretty perfect this afternoon so you've got to go low.

The course is playing good, the greens are rolling really nice. They're soft but they're rolling really well, so you're going to have to make birdies all week. The par 5s are gettable. It's one of those weeks where you know you've got to keep the pedal down all week.



Q. How satisfying is it to know that you made it through the storm literally, then turn around and shoot 6 under, then tomorrow you go out and you play in the afternoon wave?

ROB OPPENHEIM: Yeah, I mean, usually you want to play in the morning, that's usually where it's a little cooler. First off, you can take advantage of the fresh greens, so usually the morning's kind of a better opportunity to get it.

But this morning with the conditions the way they were, yeah, happy to -- while it was playing difficult, to just kind of keep it around 1 under, which was good, and then take advantage when I got to the back nine.

Q. Well, as you mentioned the fact that this is not your first time to Highland Springs, not your first time in this event, how does this round compare to other starts you've had here historically and how is the course playing in comparison to what you're used to?

ROB OPPENHEIM: Playing similar. It's always usually pretty hot this time of year. The rough's up, the rough's playing really good, it's thick, but the rain here made the course soft obviously. But I think it's pretty similar to every other year. It's in good shape, it's healthy, the grass is good.

For me, I think this is probably the best start I've ever had. I'm not sure, maybe had one top-10 maybe, but I never really -- had some steady weeks, made a lot of cuts but haven't really been in the hunt. This is definitely the best start I've had.

Q. For you, what does it take to be in the hunt here? You mentioned everybody knows you've got to go 24, 25, 26 under at the Price Cutter Championship. How does that figure in for you? How do you play better here?

ROB OPPENHEIM: You've got to just keep your head down, make putts. You've got to make putts. It comes down to you've got to really get the putter going this week. The speed of the greens was good this morning. It was a little tricky because all the rain this morning, but the one advantage we get going off first thing in the morning, we get fresh, perfect greens. Made a few good putts.

Yeah, this comes down to really taking advantage of the par 5s that are gettable and then making putts.

Q. Only fifth start of the year coming off your best finish a few weeks ago at Memorial Health, how are you feeling form-wise? Obviously pretty good based on this first round.

ROB OPPENHEIM: Yeah, it was good. I took two weeks off, last two weeks I was home in Boston with family and friends, so I got to kind of feel fresh coming in here.



Yeah, I had surgery in September, shoulder surgery, so just kind of getting back in the swing of things. And my shoulder feels good. This heat helps keep things loose a little bit. It's nice coming to a course I'm very familiar with, know the course well. My body's starting to feel better, which is good, and getting more reps under my belt playing like this. So it's, yeah, excited for the start and it's good to be back competing again.

Q. And coming back from surgery, how much of the rehab bouncing back is it physical versus mental?

ROB OPPENHEIM: Yeah, it's a combination, like you said. In the beginning when you start swinging, it's a little tentative. Then you start feeling like you're -- the body's good, now all of a sudden it's getting the competitive reps. It's one thing to go home and shoot 5, 6, 7 under at your home course, but to do it out here with tucked pins and stakes that mean a little more, it's a little different than playing at your home course. It's good to post some good rounds and it's good to see the things I was doing at home kind of translated to tournament golf as well.

