

**PINNACLE BANK CHAMPIONSHIP**  
presented by Aetna

**ROUND 2 QUICK QUOTE**  
August 11, 2023

**JOE HIGHSMITH (-9)**



**Q. Joe, right now top of the leaderboard. Obviously a ton of golf left, but starting off with two good rounds, how are you feeling through 36 holes?**

**JOE HIGHSMITH:** I feel good, yeah. It was a pretty solid day today, and yesterday was really solid. Yeah, I'm starting to play better. It's been kind of a struggle the last month or so coming back, but yeah, nice to post some good numbers and feel like I'm playing well again.

**Q. The last few courses had some higher cut numbers. Can you talk about kind of how challenging this course is?**

**JOE HIGHSMITH:** Yeah, it's great. It's nice to finally get a place that it's just generally pretty tough. You really get rewarded for hitting quality shots. It's pretty tight off the tee. Yeah, it's great. You really get penalized for bad shots. The greens are still tricky. It's mainly just pretty tough off the tee, which is great, we don't really see a lot of that. It's nice to have that for a change, for sure.

**Q. You mentioned a little bit about how a little bit of a struggle there, good start to the season and then had to take a few off. How does it feel that you're kind of now rebounding hopefully to get back into form?**

**JOE HIGHSMITH:** Yeah, it's great. My back is feeling really good and that's huge. I had to miss obviously a pretty good chunk of the season. Yeah, I mean, I was kind of just a little bit on the struggle bus trying to figure out how to kind of play my game again and I feel like I'm starting to find it a little bit. Yeah, it's great. I mean, I'm definitely kind of behind the 8-ball a little bit now with how I played and how much I missed, but still plenty of golf left. As long as I keep doing stuff well, I think I'll be all right.

**Q. I guess mentally only five more events, but you're playing -- you played well at the start of the year and you said you're starting to play well now. How difficult is it to kind of phase out the, all right, we only have X number of tournaments left, just focus on the day to day?**

**JOE HIGHSMITH:** For sure, it's tough. It's hard to not think about what's on the line this year. Kind of obviously my first year on this tour and I've only been a pro for a little over a year now. I'm sure it's going to -- I'm going to start to feel it quite a bit in the playoff events especially. And obviously I know what's on the line, but you always try your best to just



dumb it down to just one shot at a time and whatever is required of the shot in front of you and not really get sucked into all that stuff. But it's tough. I mean, I'm going to be feeling the pressure, for sure.

**Q. And last question, going back a few weeks in Chicago with Barstool being there, can you talk about a little bit of your experience with it, how enjoyable it was and how different it was?**

**JOE HIGHSMITH:** Yeah, I thought it was great. I thought the coverage was hilarious. Those guys are all super funny, it was a nice change. I watch a lot of golf and I thought it was a great change to the typical golf coverage that you see with these guys just roasting players and not holding back at all. I think they maybe did a bit too much at times, but I thought it was great. Having like those guys on course was kind of fun. I think it was awesome. I'd love to see them do that more, yeah.

