

MEMORIAL HEALTH CHAMPIONSHIP

ROUND 1 PRESS CONFERENCE

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AUSTIN SMOTHERMAN

Q. Austin, bogey-free round today, 7 under. What was working well with your game today?

AUSTIN SMOTHERMAN: I made a couple long putts today, that was kind of nice. One with the flagstick in, that was kind of going past the hole. Then another one for eagle on 16 there, like 25 feet in the middle of the green. Took a couple good shots there. Felt like I hit good drives on the holes that you could score on and then the few loose shots that I had I could kind of still get it around and make 4.

Q. What hole was that where you hit the flagstick or it was miles by?

AUSTIN SMOTHERMAN: That was the par 3, No. 4. Is that the par 3? The numbers, I mean, that's the other thing, I felt like kind of just being such an early tee time, kind of never gave me time to get too worked up for the day, so it was just a very calm early walk. Richy's playing great, too. Ollie's making a ton of birdies. The whole group was kind of vibing on each other.

Q. You mentioned the early tee time. We also had a lot of rain. What were the conditions like? Was it soft out there? What was it like?

AUSTIN SMOTHERMAN: It was pretty soft. I was thinking the fairways were going to have a little bit more of a chance of either just kind of plugging or maybe picking up a little bit of mud, but surprisingly they kind of dried out. I think the wind's just up enough to kind of keep that from happening. Not that it's dead calm out here, but there is enough calm wind that you can attack with a lot of wedges. There's only a few real difficult shots you've kind of got to pull off and I feel like I did those well today.

Q. Can you talk to us about your season a little bit so far this year? You've done some starts PGA TOUR, some starts out here, some good results here and you made most of your cuts on the PGA TOUR. What's been your thoughts on the season so far?

AUSTIN SMOTHERMAN: Just stringing together a lot of golf. It's all kind of been just a lot of OK golf here and there. I've had some really nice rounds out here, had some nice finishes but kind of few and far between. Just tough splitting time, I don't wish it on anybody. It's just a lot of golf. And figuring out how to manage the week, figuring out how you want to go about it towards the end and just realizing it just comes down to what you're doing right in



front of you and figuring out how to get some rest. That's been my biggest thing this week. With the weather we've had, I feel like I kind of just didn't do a whole lot with the rain and then kind of some blustery winds on the first day I got here. It was opposite of what we have for the tourney rounds.

Q. So what's that like for you in terms of travel, just staying focused each week knowing you're bouncing from tournament to tournament, tour to tour, just being locked in each week and taking it as it comes?

AUSTIN SMOTHERMAN: Yeah, I don't enjoy being home for the weekend, but these last few I've been able to get back home. Just a couple days at home feels like a reset. Fortunate enough to have a newborn baby girl, so we've got a two-and-a-half-week old at home and a 15-, 16-month old. So to be able to get there and relieve my wife of some of that stress has been nice and fulfilling for me, too. So I get back out here and feel like I'm not missing too much at home.

Q. What's been being a dad like, just changing your perspective on golf and family life?

AUSTIN SMOTHERMAN: The big perspective where you definitely gain a lot of that being a dad. Just day in and day out routine, it's all about them. I get my work in when I can, but I'm on the road so much. I was fortunate enough to bring my first daughter on the road with me with my wife a good bit last year, just playing the tour the majority of the season, pretty much the whole season. This year's been a little bit different, so going to keep playing my best and see where that ends up.

