

TULUM CHAMPIONSHIP AT PGA RIVIERA MAYA

ROUND 2 QUICK QUOTES

May 2, 2025



SHAD TUTEN (-6)

Q. Shad, 3 under again today. I guess take us through your round. Seemed like you had it going early and then just a lot of pars on the back nine there?

SHAD TUTEN: Yeah, hit it great all day. It was something that I've really been doing pretty much for the past maybe month or two really. I just hadn't really got the putter going. Yeah, made a couple early and then I three-putted the par 3 to get to a couple under on the day. Then ended up missing a couple like coming down the stretch there, but I actually only hit three greens in regulation on my back nine so I made maybe, I don't know, three or four putts outside of 10 feet for par. Those putts kind of keep you going. That was kind of my day.

Q. Has ball-striking really been the key for you here this week with kind of how narrow this course can get?

SHAD TUTEN: Yeah, yeah, for sure. It's one of those courses that I feel like is an advantage for someone like me who is kind of a straighter hitter. Plenty of experience in the wind and very comfortable in the wind, so yeah, I feel really comfortable here.

Q. How's the wind kind of been playing this week? In some places you get blocked by some trees a little bit.

SHAD TUTEN: Yeah, it's interesting, you kind of have to kind of remember where you are. I mean, for me, like I really try to take from past experiences with how much wind, how little wind. You really have to kind of hit the ball at the right time, too. That's kind of some part of it. It's more about controlling your golf ball and really hitting it solid, that's the most important thing.

Q. What's been your kind of strategy off the tee? See a lot of irons and 3-woods for guys. What have you been doing?

SHAD TUTEN: I think I may have hit two drivers today so I think it's a common thing here. It's just one of those things that you've got to put the ball in play, it doesn't matter really how far it goes. And you can't really overpower it. I mean, you could but a lot of people aren't trying to. It's definitely a plotter's paradise as I call it.

Q. We talked about pars for you on the back nine, that's a good score here this week with how it's been playing. Do you feel like that fits you better when you can make pars and you're still kind of right there?

SHAD TUTEN: Yeah, like my coach and I always talk about having par holes and having birdie holes and there's just more par holes out here. Even the little shorties and some of the ones that have the crosswinds where it's even hard to hit the fairway. Yeah, really sticking to the game plan is key for me, just trying to do my thing.

Q. We're at the 10th event here. Where do you feel like your game's at? Do you feel like you're starting to hit a good stride now as we start to stack up tournaments one after another?

SHAD TUTEN: Yeah, early in the year for me it was hard because I had kind of bad conditional status so I couldn't really play in anything. That weighed on me mentally, I had never experienced that in my life, in my career. It was something different that I had to adjust to.

You know, hitting my stride, yes, but honestly, like I said, I've been hitting the ball great for at least a month and a half or so. Really, Savannah was OK but I feel like it's better than the way I've been playing. So I'm definitely trending in the right direction.

Q. How did you kind of jump that mental hurdle early in the season knowing you're conditional and knowing you might not get into some events and kind of play the wait and see?

SHAD TUTEN: Honestly, it's more about trying to plan what you can and then expect what you think should happen rather than kind of playing in the now, if that makes sense.

For me it was more of just trying to stay sharp. It was hard because you get to events late, you can't play practice rounds. Fortunately I've played all these events, most of 'em, so it's just one of those things where you just have to stay sharp no matter what and just be ready. And that's easier said than done, but like my prep for those weeks even when I was an alternate was exactly the same. Mentally trying to stay really focused and do exactly what I could to really prep for the week.

I mean, I'm not saying it was easy, it was impossible like to plan, obviously it's more expensive and stuff like that you don't really think about, but it was really good. I feel like I learned a lot. But yeah, hitting my stride coming up, especially now like after Savannah. I felt really good in Savannah, so it's definitely come around, for sure.