

MEMORIAL HEALTH CHAMPIONSHIP
presented by LRS

ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTES
June 26, 2025



LUKE GUTHRIE (-8)

Q. Luke, 8-under 63, bogey free. What was working out there today?

LUKE GUTHRIE: I just kind of got going early, and it's definitely a course you can just get a little confidence going, the hole starts looking big.

Yeah, I was in rhythm on the front nine, just was hitting a lot of good scoring clubs. I got hot. On the back nine I got a little loose, just out of rhythm, but made -- kind of got a little lucky on 15, made a good par and then scrambled for par or birdie on 16 and that felt good to kind of finish off the round like that because (inaudible).

Q. And you played here a couple times now. What's your comfort level here and what makes the course so gettable?

LUKE GUTHRIE: You get those three par 5s that are all reachable, so you kind of start -- you're hoping to play those 3 under at the beginning of the day. It's playing firm, which if you're putting it in the fairway makes the course play short and kind of go at the pins. If you get in the rough it's kind of hard to get the balls to stop where you want them to stop. You want to be aggressive but be in the fairway.

Q. And then we like to call you our local guy out here, Quincy native. Just what's your comfort level and do you have anyone out here with you?

LUKE GUTHRIE: Yeah, I had a good crowd here today, about 10 people from Quincy and Jacksonville, Illinois, and some Champaigners. Hopefully keep this rolling and get more and more people over here this week.

Yeah, I grew up playing high school golf at Piper, The Rail, so yeah, this feels like home. I'm only an hour and a half away. Went over to Champaign on Tuesday to practice at that facility.

Q. What does that type of support feel like?

LUKE GUTHRIE: I've been lucky through my career, I got a start early at the John Deere and that was one of the coolest experiences. I probably had 100 Quincy people come up, and Champaign buddies. Yeah, I've had a ton of support for Quincy being a smaller town through my whole career and very appreciative of it. Very proud of where I'm from.

Q. And do you want to maybe just walk me through where you've been the past couple seasons, Q-School second stage medalist to get back out here?

LUKE GUTHRIE: Yeah, no status the last two years and honestly haven't been playing my best. Still kind of looking for it a little bit. It's not like I was just striping it out there. I've got good hands and I'm a good player. If I kind of get close enough and get the club in the hitting zone I can shoot scores. That's still the goal is just to kind of get my mechanics and swing a little more steady and consistent every week. I'm confident I can get there.

Q. How do you feel in comparison to (inaudible)?

LUKE GUTHRIE: Definitely doing better now than I was back in '21, '22 or something. I've made strides. I was playing really solid last fall and won the second stage of Q-School. It's been a little hit and miss this year, but showed some signs last week. I didn't have a great Sunday, but I was a little more solid, a little better.

Was over at Champaign on Tuesday, Coach Small gave me a little -- moved my ball position in my putting and backed me away from the ball a little bit and I rolled it nicely.

Q. When you showed up today, did you know you would be at the top of the leaderboard when you stepped off 18? Was that on your radar?

LUKE GUTHRIE: Yeah, you always show up and -- it's first round, you're out here, you get in the process, you know you need to go low here. I mean, sure it's great to start 8 under, but the lead tomorrow's going to be 15 under. I mean, you just need to kind of keep your head down for I've always liked to say like 63 holes until you get on the back nine Sunday, like then you can see what you've got to do. Put your head down, play golf and try to make a lot of pars and birdies.

Q. I mean, you certainly set the tempo today with this first round. Obviously a very long career for you. How do you maintain that form because I feel like it's easy to come and do it for one round, but how do you do it for (inaudible)?

LUKE GUTHRIE: Yeah, that's the key, it's that consistency. And true, some days you get breaks, the ball's going in and you've got to ride those out. I did a good job today taking advantage of the day. There will be other days where it's a little harder and you shoot 4 under. Hopefully there's another hot nine holes. You get hot, you've got to get out of your own way and just let it happen.

Q. So being from Quincy, you're back home, what have the last couple days been like being home for the practice round, being able to see your family and things like that?

LUKE GUTHRIE: Yeah, for sure, it's always great. This feels like home, Midwest, specifically Springfield and Quincy being an hour and a half away and Champaign are two

huge parts of my life. Unfortunately, my family, they all live down in Florida now so I don't have too much family per se in Quincy, but I still have a lot of friends, a lot of acquaintances in Quincy. That's where I'm from and I'm proud of that. I want to get over there Sunday night, I haven't got there. I'm flying out of St. Louis Monday morning, so hoping to go eat at some of my favorite spots. I love (indiscernible) over there. I need some (inaudible).

Q. Just walk me through -- you mentioned Coach Small before. You want to just walk me through that relationship and how special it is to still have that connection with him?

LUKE GUTHRIE: Yeah, I think all of us Illini guys, Coach Small has a special meaning to us. He looks out for us, he always invites us back with open arms into the facility. I know some of the other guys went there on Monday. I think Adrien was there Monday, I went Tuesday.

Yeah, we were there four years, we went through a lot of stuff together, I grew a lot and I feel like I matured and became more of like a man like under his watch kind of thing.

And he knows my game, too. It's like when somebody like that that has the pedigree that he has, you trust him and he just tells you a little something. We were only together for probably 15 minutes, but I asked his opinion and he's like, you want my opinion? I'm like yeah, that's why I asked. He moved me a couple different positions, moved ball position and all of a sudden ball starts rolling a little better. Yeah, can't say enough about Coach Small, really value our relationship.