

UTAH CHAMPIONSHIP

ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTES

July 31, 2025

BLADES BROWN (-6)



Q. Blades, great round. Just take me through a couple of the highlights and just what you make of the course this week.

BLADES BROWN: Yeah, I mean, I haven't had a hole-out in a while, and to make a 2 on a 480-yard par 4 is pretty nice. Yeah, I played solid today. Made a lot of putts, which I mean these greens -- the course is in phenomenal shape. Had a lot of fun out there. Got to play with two people from outside the U.S., so got to learn about their culture. Other than that, yeah, pretty cool.

Q. Just what do you make of the course in general and how do you think it suits your game and what you're trying to do out there?

BLADES BROWN: I think that the more that I'm in the fairway, the easier it is. I missed a few fairways to start the day and kind of got off to a slow start, but as soon as I started to lock in and hit some fairways, started to get it going.

Q. Monday qualified again this week. What's the experience been like? I think you've done maybe two, three, four, something like that. What's your experience been like?

BLADES BROWN: Monday qualifiers are no joke. Like you've got guys -- you have to shoot minimum of 8 under par sometimes. (indiscernible) shot 9 and there were eight spots, so we were pretty clean through, but I mean Mondays you've got to go low, you've got to go low. And then on top of that you've got to play really well the next four days, or the next two days that you're playing in the event.

So I think it's a lot of fun. Jack and I, we have a lot of fun just hanging out, playing all these new golf courses around the country. Yeah, it's pretty fun.

Q. Is there anything like that, the feeling of like having to shoot 8 under in one of those things compares to?

BLADES BROWN: I personally really like it because I'm locked in another level of my game. Before -- like every time I'm back at home now I shoot 6 to 7 under par and my game has never been in that shape in my life. But you have to do that out here. You're forced, you're put in a position where you have to do it. So I personally really like it, it's been a really cool experience.

Q. How much have you looked at sort of where you're at in the points list, what it means for the rest of the season out here? How much are you thinking about that?

BLADES BROWN: Yeah, it's definitely in the back of my mind. I've talked to my team, and my swing coach, Justin Parsons, we've kind of been dabbling in the mental part of that. If I can just control the things that I can control, whether it's the commitment over a shot, you know, my preparation, how much I'm practicing before, everything else will kind of take care of itself. Then if I do that, then we'll see what happens. Hopefully we get where we want to be.

But at the end of the day, like I'm trying to get better and I feel like the Korn Ferry Tour, or I know the Korn Ferry Tour is making me better.

Q. I heard that you stay in touch with Chris Zambri from the National Team?

BLADES BROWN: Yeah.

Q. What have you learned from him throughout the process of just how he approaches golf course strategy and things like that?

BLADES BROWN: It's incredible to have somebody like him to talk to about courses. He's kind of been put in like a pretty fast scenario. We Monday qualify and instantly I'm texting him, hey, can I get a breakdown of this golf course, and he's like, oh, OK.

It's super special because we talk weekly pretty much. It's really cool to have because he was my USA coach when I was a junior. I mean, it's so special to have somebody to dissect a golf course and really talk about the course management because I think that's where my game needs most improvement is just course management and he's the perfect person for that.

Q. If you had to like pinpoint maybe one or two things that maybe come up repeatedly that have been like big lessons for you in terms of golf course management --

BLADES BROWN: We've got a lot of offense, so we're making a lot of birdies, we just need to limit the bogeys. So I would say limiting bogeys and then hitting fairways. Oh, no, sorry, limiting bogeys and then not three-putting.

I mean, every single guy that's out here, they always have perfect speed. That's what the pros do, they work on their speed the most and that's what's kind of shown up the most whenever I'm looking at those guys. Even the guys on Tour, you never see those guys three-putt, very rarely do they do that. Even if they have like a 10-footer, they have like perfect speed, right?

So I think that if I just kind of dial into some of the course management and then fix my lag

putting a little bit, we'll be good to go.

Q. I promise I'm not trying to frame this in a negative way, but has the experience been different this week without one of your parents or anybody kind of here to sort of help you along with the process? I know someone's been with you pretty much every week.

BLADES BROWN: Yeah, yeah. So this is my first time traveling alone by myself and it hasn't really felt like I'm by myself. I have my team here, my Sportfive agents, my Callaway team, Jack, obviously my caddie. So I'm really looking forward to -- because I think my parents are coming on the weekend or at least Friday, I'll hopefully make the cut.

My parents have really taken the parents role instead of coach role and it's been -- I will say though it's nice to have my own room. Sorry, Dad, but it's, yeah, I've really loved the experience. It's just part of becoming an adult and yeah, I'm having a lot of fun.

Q. And what's been your favorite part, other than obviously playing professional golf, what's been your favorite part of just being on the road?

BLADES BROWN: My favorite part. I would just say the impact that we can have on people. It's so cool to be able to walk down the fairways and see guys or kids that are my age and just to see them clap after we make a putt, and it's so special to be able to look down the fairway and see those guys cheering me on.