

UTAH CHAMPIONSHIP

ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTES

July 31, 2025



ETIENNE PAPPINEAU (-9)

Q. Etienne, great round today. Just walk me through a couple of the highlights. I saw a couple eagles on the card and then I heard about a big birdie.

ETIENNE PAPPINEAU: Yeah, no, I played really well today. I had a chip-in on 4, a reachable par 4, chip-in for eagle. Then I made a pretty decent long putt on 9 off the fringe.

Then on the back nine just hit some really, really good tee shots, really good approach shots. I had another chip-in on 15, the par 5. Then yeah, birdied 18 with maybe a 25-footer down the hill.

Yeah, overall really happy obviously with my day. It's been a long wait because I had -- I've been struggling a little bit this year so it feels good to have a low one in me today.

Q. What do you make of the course, the condition it's in and everything?

ETIENNE PAPPINEAU: It was kind of getting windy a little bit, too. It was definitely not easy. But the course is in really good shape, the greens are good. You can get some pretty nasty lies in the rough around the greens sometimes and even off the fairways. No, I mean, it's a treat.

Q. And you're four shots ahead right now, so obviously not everyone else having as easy of a time with it. You talked about the rough a little bit, but what about this course kind of presents some challenges for everybody?

ETIENNE PAPPINEAU: Yeah, no, I mean, it depends on -- I feel like you have to hit the fairways because there's some spots off the fairways where it's pretty thick and sometimes it's kind of hard to get to the greens on some holes. But yeah, I just think that today I took advantage of my opportunities. Obviously two chip-ins help a lot. No, I mean, it's a really good day for me.

Q. Is there anything in particular you've been working on the last few weeks that's really just starting to show up on the course?

ETIENNE PAPPINEAU: Yes. You know, as I said earlier, I've been struggling a lot this year, especially mentally because my game is still there. It's just I've been -- I haven't had a really good start to the season. I kind of went into like a negative mode a little bit too much. I think I was just beating myself up a little bit too much. I didn't want to, you know, regret it at

the end of the season, so I've been working on that a lot and trying to be more positive towards myself. It's not always easy because it's the part of my game where I've been struggling the most this year. But I have an amazing team around me that's been helping me with that, so I'm just trying to be more in a good mood.

Q. How hard is it to sort of turn it around when it feels like everything, I'm sure it just feels like it snowballs one week right after another?

ETIENNE PAPPINEAU: Yeah, sometimes you're just trying too hard to turn it around and just let it come to you. I think that's just what I did this week. Woke up this morning, I was feeling good. I just felt good this morning, I was in a good mood. I'm not saying that it depends which mood I am in the morning, but I was just -- I woke up and just felt good. It's always a start. Once you feel good, I mean, anything can happen.

Q. And given the position that you're sort of at in the points list, what's your outlook, goals for the rest of the season here?

ETIENNE PAPPINEAU: I'm just trying to play good golf until the end of the season and we'll see what happens. I think I've put a lot of pressure on myself with the points, the points list and the standings and everything, keeping my card and stuff like that.

As I said, I think I just told myself this week like there's, I don't know, maybe seven events left to the season, like just go out there and do your best. That's what I did today, and I'll just try to do the same thing for the rest of the season, for the rest of this week, just go out there and play golf and see what happens.

Q. What about like a positive thing in your life like away from the course, are there some things that have helped you kind of gain that new perspective that you came out here with this week?

ETIENNE PAPPINEAU: Yeah. As I said, I have such an amazing team around me, my family, my girlfriend, all my sponsors, my coach. I just have an extremely unbelievable support team around me. They've been there since -- they're not always there when it's going well, they've been there even in my bad, you know, in my bad moments. I think that's the biggest thing in my life is just have a lot of amazing people around me and I think I can rely on them to give me some advice and try and move forward.

Q. And how did you choose West Virginia for where you went to school?

ETIENNE PAPPINEAU: I love Coach, Coach Covich. He's amazing. And obviously it was kind of close to him, too. Like I'm from Montreal, but it's only like a 12-hour drive so it wasn't too far from home.

But overall I just really liked the atmosphere there with the coaches, Sean Covich, Jay Woodward and Clay Bounds, they've been amazing. Yeah, I think it was just a perfect fit for

me.

Q. Did you know where West Virginia was like on a map before they started recruiting you?

ETIENNE PAPPINEAU: Absolutely no clue. When I went on my visit was my first time in that area, but I fell in love with Morgantown. It's a fun town, fun city, and yeah, I had an amazing time and an amazing team. Really unbelievable teammates that I'm good friends with today still. Obviously, as I said, really good coaches as well.