

## UTAH CHAMPIONSHIP

### ROUND 2 QUICK QUOTES

August 1, 2025



### DANIEL SUMMERHAYS (-8)

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**Q. Daniel, a great round today. Just what was the difference between yesterday and today and posting a low number?**

**DANIEL SUMMERHAYS:** The putting was way better. I have a little putting green in my basement at my house and we spent about an hour down there with my wife and two kids, my two youngest kids, and we putted till probably 9:30 last night just putting, putting, putting.

I was adding a little too much loft on the putter. I just figured that out and rolled the rock really nice today honestly. I hit some really nice putts.

I also hit four, five more fairways than I did yesterday, and coming at some of these pins out of the fairway makes a big difference instead of the rough.

So those two things, driving a little better and putting, those two things add up pretty quick to a good score.

**Q. You're obviously very familiar with a lot of courses in the state, but what's it been like to transition to here in Ogden this year?**

**DANIEL SUMMERHAYS:** You know, it's got a lot of similar qualities to Oak Ridge. A couple shorter par 4s, but then the ones that they transitioned from par 5s to par 4s are actually really challenging. As a par 70, I think it's a nice little test where you've got to be careful. And then with the wind up a little bit and the greens getting firmer, I think it will be a fun weekend.

**Q. What's the year been like for you coming back from -- coming back from injury, I think?**

**DANIEL SUMMERHAYS:** Yeah. So I had back surgery in January and had a fusion, my L3-L4 vertebrae. It's been kind of miraculous, honestly. The first few months were really difficult, but worked my tail off to get back into shape.

Just so grateful to all the people who helped me along the way from the surgical team, the chiropractic team, diagnostic team, my PT, my trainer, my family, everybody who's gone in to help me get back physically to probably better than I was probably any time in my career.

So I can stand up straight without trying to double over and get my leg to go unnumb and get feeling back in it. So overall I walked out there today no pain at all anywhere in my body. I

actually thought about that. No Aleve, no Advil, anything, so really happy with how my body's reacting.

**Q. Would you say it's harder playing with -- I imagine the injury was kind of just there in the background, right? Was it harder playing with it or harder going through the recovery process?**

**DANIEL SUMMERHAYS:** Just the mental side of not being able to string days together of practice, of workout. You'd practice and I was like, I'm going to be just done tomorrow so I don't even know what I just practiced, if that will sink in.

So definitely if you would have asked me that in February and March, I probably would have told you the recovery is way tougher than dealing with that, but now on the back side of it, I'm really glad I went through it.

**Q. Was there like a period of time where you couldn't leave a chair or something like that?**

**DANIEL SUMMERHAYS:** No. I'm really fortunate that way to where I was able to stay pretty active.

The interesting thing is just standing still or walking in like a straight line, that was probably the most painful thing. Sitting was fine, laying down was fine, but if I was just standing, my whole right leg, it would just go numb and I would have to start trying to figure out how to get that moving. Couldn't go on a walk Sunday mornings with the dog with my wife. I'd get 20 yards down the road and I'd be like, babe, we need to stop for a second, I need to like get this resituated here.

I was fortunate that I was able to still be pretty active before and I think that helped -- they call it prehab instead of rehab, the prehab. I was able to stay active and I think that's why I've been able to come back so fast.

**Q. And just knowing that you've got sort of a truncated season, what are your goals for sort of the remainder of the way here?**

**DANIEL SUMMERHAYS:** I'd love to get enough points to get into Boise. I'd love to earn enough points at Boise, get into the first playoff event. Every tournament that I would play past next week in Omaha I'd feel is a job well done to be able to come back.

And I'll have 16 guaranteed starts for next year's Korn Ferry season and I'm exempt into final stage of Q-School, so I've still got a few good -- over the next year I've got a few good opportunities to get my PGA TOUR card.

**Q. You're asked this all the time, but just the Utah crowd, it's nonstop. I mean, just on 18 the crowd's immediately cheering upon your arrival. What does that mean to you?**

**DANIEL SUMMERHAYS:** It's pretty emotional, honestly. Just walking down the third hole today, you know, I see my -- I have my oldest brother David on the bag, my brother Spencer's watching with his family, and my brother Boyd's walking up from the range helping Preston warm up.

So I've got my three brothers, and if my three sisters were in town, they would be here, too.

And then just all my closest friends are here, and my childhood friends. I've got my pickleball friends, my golf friends, my bowling friends. You know, I have everybody here.

So it really is, it's overwhelming. Honestly, it makes me feel -- because I know I don't have to prove anything to them, so like the gratitude that I feel that they're out here cheering me on, it calms me down, it really does. It makes me excited to perform for them, so I love it.