

SIMMONS BANK OPEN
for the Snedeker Foundation

ROUND 2 QUICK QUOTES
September 12, 2025



AUSTIN HITT (-13)

Q. Austin, great round, and I think you were on pace for 59 at one point. Just sort of walk me through the day, maybe a couple highlights, and maybe when 59 might have entered your head at all, if it did.

AUSTIN HITT: Yeah, no, definitely. It started out this morning, we came back and played the two holes we had to finish, and I birdied both of those and then came out and birdied the first two of the next round, so it was kind of like four in a row to start.

I'd say I was playing nicely yesterday. It was hard with the greens growing in the afternoon, I felt like I was rolling it nice but not getting a lot of them to go in. And the putter just got really hot. Started using a new putter this week. First time in three years, so maybe I should have done it sooner.

Q. At what point like on the back nine today did you ever think about 59? Like were you tracking it at all, your caddie tracking it?

AUSTIN HITT: Yeah, I'm sure he was more than me. I made a long one, I made two long ones in a row on 3 and 4. We even started laughing to each other, like it felt like just everything was going in for a little bit there.

So it definitely popped in my mind there, but I knew that 6 and 7 were kind of trickier holes, but I knew 8 and 9 I could get some looks. But it definitely crossed my mind. It kind of went out of my mind after I made a bogey, but even with the iron shot it kind of popped back in my head mid air that it was going right at it. Man, it might go in for 59. No, it was a good round.

Q. What was like the final that got you over the hump in terms of deciding to change the putter?

AUSTIN HITT: I had been messing with that style head for a lot of the year. They were able to put a new face in it and it came in over the off weeks. It just kind of fell right into place. It was still kind of like funny during the practice rounds using something different because I used this other putter for so long. I was rolling it so nice in practice that yeah, it was an easy transition.

Q. What is the new putter?

AUSTIN HITT: It is a Scottie Cameron Squareback 2 with a trillium face. That's a mouthful.

Q. What's the season been like for you just for where you're at on the points list, and do you feel like you're in a good spot? Just how do you feel about it?

AUSTIN HITT: Yeah, I felt like the last stretch I was playing really nicely. I think I made 10 cuts in a row, but my highest finish was only 12. So I had a lot of consistent golf, and I felt like there was a lot of tournaments that were one or two shots away from me being from 40th on the money list to become 20th or 15th range sometimes all the difference. So I feel like my game has been really good, just haven't quite gotten over the hump to get up in that top-20.

Q. We talked about like three weeks off, we talked a little bit off camera. What did you do to pass the time on the three weeks?

AUSTIN HITT: I was up -- my girlfriend lives in Atlanta so I was up at the Tour Championship. Got to watch those guys, which was cool. Got to watch my buddy, Ben Griffin, which was really cool. Went on a trip with some friends. Then kind of the last week, kind of got back into golf. Was a little rusty to start, but sometimes the off time is nice.

Q. How do you like watch golf when you're at a tournament just like as a fan as a professional golfer?

AUSTIN HITT: I get into it quick. It was fun watching, especially because I know his game so well. I'm kind of putting myself into his shoes when I'm watching. Watching the strategy, what he's thinking, where the wind's at. It's funny just listening to people in the crowd that had no idea what was going on. It's kind of fun to step outside of it for a couple days.

By the fourth round I was like, all right, I'm kind of ready to get back to playing myself and try to get there as well.

Q. Did you just try and post up by greens or just walking kind of shot for shot?

AUSTIN HITT: Yeah, no, shot for shot, walking shot for shot. I hadn't done that in maybe two or three years so it was kind of fun. Especially with three weeks off, it was perfect timing right when we got back. So it was fun to do that for a couple days.

Q. So is there like a memorable story between the two of you that you kind of hang onto from your time at North Carolina?

AUSTIN HITT: Lots. I don't know, it kind of ties in with the putter. His senior year, my sophomore year, Ben used to hide my clubs and he would just leave my putter sitting in the locker. I wasn't allowed to have my clubs back until I beat him in a putting contest. So I kind of went from like one of the worst putters on the team to a couple years later the best one.

I always thank him for that because it kind of like transformed my game before I turned professional.

Q. So it was very intentional?

AUSTIN HITT: Yeah, yeah. He was sticking it to me that I needed to practice my putting more.

Q. Was he like, did he do that with other guys?

AUSTIN HITT: No, no, no. We were buds, but yeah, he was needling me a little bit, but I think at the same time saying hey, you might need to practice this a little more.