

ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTES
July 9, 2026

COOPER MUSSELMAN (-3)



Q. Cooper, nice way to finish, birdie-birdie and a 66. I know you're pleased with that opening round. If we can get some comments on your play.

COOPER MUSSELMAN: Yeah, very pleased with the round. Pleased with the way I fought back. Kind of had a tough start today and was able to kind of dig in and lock in and finish with a couple birdies. Yeah, happy with my score.

Q. What was it that worked well as you sort of got back in it after a rougher start?

COOPER MUSSELMAN: Once I made one putt, I feel like the hole just gets bigger so I'm just kind of waiting for that first putt to go in. Once I think I made a pretty good birdie putt on I believe that was 5 and once I made that, it was kind of a sense of relief, a sense of I can do this, I know what to do now. Just riding the momentum.

Q. Just take us through the eagle if you can.

COOPER MUSSELMAN: Yeah, yeah. It was just overall just a great hole. Hit a great drive right where we were looking. Had a pretty good number, it was about 247, 230 to cover the bunker, which is all you're trying to do. Hit a great 4-iron, covered the bunker by about, I don't know, maybe a yard or two and rolled out to maybe about 30 feet. I was able to get a really good read off of John's putt and then played a little bit higher and thankfully it went in for me.

Q. This is your fifth ISCO now. I know the tournament means a lot to you. Talk a little bit about getting the sponsor exemption this week and your goals for the week.

COOPER MUSSELMAN: Yeah, extremely thankful to get it this week. Ended up Monday qualifying last year, so thankfully I didn't have to go through that stressful thing this year.

Yeah, love having a home game. Get to sleep in my own bed, which is always unique in golf, it never really happens. So very thankful for the opportunity and love seeing some familiar faces out there.

Q. Going off of that, Cooper, how special is it to be in Louisville and what makes Louisville such a great sports town?

COOPER MUSSELMAN: Yeah, I think the people make it a great sports town. Fans seem to always show up whether Ryder Cups, even golf -- not in the golf world, football games, basketball games, seems like the fans are always there, they're always in support of their



home team and I think that's what makes it so special.

Q. Obviously a lot of guys from the high schools, St. X that are participating in this tournament. How much more special does that make it to see familiar faces on the golf course and then also people who are St. X alum, fans who are out here today too?

COOPER MUSSELMAN: Yeah, love it. Love hearing the Go Tigers, Go Cards, Go Cats. Love it. Yeah, it's a nice change of pace. Sometimes on the road you go places and don't know anybody, so it's very refreshing.

Q. Obviously Louisville's had the university here, basketball, but they have TBT now, the UFL and this, just from being born and raised here, how much have you seen kind of really the sports scene expand over your lifetime?

COOPER MUSSELMAN: Yeah, I remember going to all the Louisville basketball games and I even remember the arena football days with the Louisville Fire. I remember me and my dad going to those games. It's fun to go to all those sporting events. Yeah, I've been to a couple of the soccer games, the UFL games, the Kings. Yeah, so it's great, it's great. I feel like that's just what makes Louisville special is the fans.

Q. How much does it set you up for tomorrow when you birdie 18 and you hear all the cheers and kind of end your day on such a high note?

COOPER MUSSELMAN: Yeah, love ending the day on a high note. It's definitely going to make lunch taste a little better. Yeah, it's just great. Setting up for tomorrow, I haven't really thought about tomorrow. I've got a long day off, I think I'm not going to tee off until I think 2:00 tomorrow. So really just going to try to rest and relax and honestly just turn my brain off and just kind of relax.

Q. How is it playing today compared to last year when the greens were dried out, the course was dried out compared to today?

COOPER MUSSELMAN: Yeah, the course is much softer compared to last year. Last year was about as firm of a golf course as I've ever played. Obviously all the rain here has made it a little softer, which makes it a touch easier, but it's still a difficult golf course. It's tough to hit the shots and get the ball in the hole. Yeah, still think it's a really good test.

Q. Did you feel like you were able to really find your pinpoint on the greens the way that you wanted to today?

COOPER MUSSELMAN: Yes, towards the end of the round, yeah, putter was rolling well. I missed one on 16 that I'm not too happy about, but overall rolled it really well.

