

UTAH CHAMPIONSHIP
presented by Zions Bank and Intermountain Health

ROUND 4 QUOTES
August 2, 2026



DEREK HITCHNER (-21, won playoff)

Q. Derek, incredible weekend, an incredible finish in the playoff. How did it feel when that final putt dropped?

DEREK HITCHNER: Well, I mean, suspenseful because obviously there's one more putt from Tommy left. But it was a relief to see a putt go in because I felt like I had been looking at a lot of opportunities on the back nine and just couldn't really get one to go in. Yeah, it's all just profoundly surreal but unbelievably happy to be here.

Q. And today was a grind, you were staying safe and everything. Take us through today's round before the playoff.

DEREK HITCHNER: Yeah. I felt very excited with just the start I had. I felt like 1 and 2 are kind of tricky. To get through those and make some birdies on 3 and 4 was relieving just to know that I was in the mix and off to a solid start.

I felt pretty solid all day. I wasn't necessarily doing anything incredibly well but just kind of staying pretty stable. Yeah, it obviously felt like it got a little tougher down the stretch just knowing that I was going to need to make a putt at some point and thankfully at 17 I was finally able to do that.

Q. And at what point were you hearing that it was going to go into a five-way playoff potentially?

DEREK HITCHNER: Yeah, I feel like someone maybe got to 22 during the round, but it seemed like it went back to 21. It felt like I just heard increasingly more murmurs of a playoff and I looked at a leaderboard on the last hole just to confirm that. I knew I had a putt in regulation to try to win it, but having missed that, I was still very grateful just to have another chance at it.

Q. And you have your mom out here, you have family, you have your wife, Lea. What does that mean for you?

DEREK HITCHNER: Yeah, it's incredible. Hard to really express in any coherent way. Yeah, I feel like they've just tolerated so much of my nonsense when things haven't gone well, so it's unbelievably special to be able to experience this with them.



Q. And how are you going to celebrate after this?

DEREK HITCHNER: I have no idea. I'll cross that bridge when it comes. I'm just very happy to be here.

Q. You've been here before as far as a playoff on Americas. So, what does it mean to actually come through with a win today?

DEREK HITCHNER: Yeah, it's incredible. I feel like I try to look at things from a broader picture just in the sense that I finally saw some better golf this week. I just found that really just quietly reassuring and encouraging. Obviously wanted a great outcome this week, but I just felt like I had the tools needed to play well the rest of the year based on what I saw this week. So, I was really happy about that. Obviously just with how this has all turned out makes it pretty incredible.

Q. Talk about a five-man playoff. Have you ever been in one before?

DEREK HITCHNER: I have not. That was completely absurd. I drove out there and there were 10 people on the tee box waiting for me.

Yeah, and every one is such an incredible player in that group. It was pretty ridiculous honestly, and obviously there were so many good looks at it. Yeah, just feel incredibly blessed that it went my way.

Q. You mentioned early in the season that you haven't had a great start to your season. I talked to your mom, she said last week you were starting to feel better. Did you see a win coming this week?

DEREK HITCHNER: Not in any sort of way. It's hard when there's kind of a disconnect between how the game feels but then I missed the cut by 2 last week. I think Tommy was 29 under. I feel like I had absolutely no prayer of getting anything close despite feeling good. So I didn't feel that way but just tried to stay as upbeat and encouraged as possible just knowing that it seemed like it was coming together slightly. Just trying to trust and continue to build and get better each week.

Q. What do you think worked this week? Do you think it was having both people in your family, the most important people in your life alongside you?

DEREK HITCHNER: Undoubtedly. They're indispensable to this whole journey and I truly would be absolutely nowhere without them, and my dad and brother as well.

Yeah, as far as what worked well, I don't know. I mean, I was staring at five feet for bogey on 4 the first day to stay even par. So to be at that point to then shoot two 62s, it's absurd. But it's a testament to how golf can change so quickly. That's something I always try to remember and just know that it's always a little bit closer than it probably feels at the



moment.

Q. What were your nerves like all day today?

DEREK HITCHNER: It was I'd say they were considerable at the start of the day. Once I got here and kind of more integrated into the pre-round routine, that helped quite a bit. Yeah, there were a lot of people too and that's always nerve racking in some ways. I got off to a nice start, I felt like that settled me in pretty quickly so just tried to ride on that as much as I could.

Q. And birdie on 17 coming down.

DEREK HITCHNER: Yes. No, I knew I needed that. Thankfully I had a similar shot on I think one of the earlier rounds that bounced on that green more than I anticipated, so tried to use that to my advantage knowing that I had kind of a similar situation. Just landed it a little bit shorter than I probably would have otherwise and yeah, thankfully skipped up to a few feet

