

DIGITAL COMMERCE GROUP OPEN

ROUND 4 QUOTES
September 13, 2026

ÉTIENNE PAPINEAU (-25)



Q. Étienne, second time doing this, first two-time winner this season, 61 today, your birthday, moving to second on the points list. You're from here. First thoughts?

ÉTIENNE PAPINEAU: Yeah, it's a crazy special moment for me. Having my parents here, both my parents. My dad was there in Toronto when I won a couple months ago, my mom wasn't there, so having both of them here, it means a lot. It's the first time my mom sees me win, so it was awesome to celebrate and give her the first hug after the putt on 18. Still can't believe it. Probably going to soak it in a little bit later on, but I'm still on like cloud 9.

Q. We knew it was your birthday today, so right from the beginning of the week and the way you were playing, you were the heavy favorite this week.

ÉTIENNE PAPINEAU: Yeah, there's a lot of players out here that are extremely good. Anyone can win at this level. As I said at the beginning of the week, I do like this course, it fits my game pretty well. I do find a lot of greens. Knew if I just had some putts go in, I would have a chance to win because for some reason, I don't know, this course is just something else for me. I don't know what's going on here, but it just fits my game extremely well. I just took advantage of it this week.

I didn't hit my best, to be honest, but I was extremely, extremely good on the greens this week. I had a lot of really, really good saves for par and even some really good putts, long putts for birdie. This week was just a really consistent week. Ball-striking was, as I said, not my best, but it was decent and the putting was just really, really good. Yeah, it's awesome.

Q. Tied for sixth at the beginning of the day, so you have to come from behind and you did it in an amazing way, a 61, five birdies in a row early in the round after a bogey second. Take us through how were you able to build this great round to finish off.

ÉTIENNE PAPINEAU: Yeah, no. I mean, I knew -- again, I was three shots behind in Toronto, I think I was four shots behind, so it's doable. I wasn't sure of the conditions. I knew if it wasn't going to be windy, I knew I had to go low. So I didn't have a specific number in mind, but I was like just try to go as low as possible because one of these guys at 16 or 17 under is probably going to go low as well.

So yeah, that was kind of the mindset I had. Started with a bogey on 2, missed a short putt, but then after that came back with five birdies right after that.



Yeah, I stayed patient out there, I knew there was going to be a lot of chances on the course, a lot of opportunities and I just had to take advantage of them and that's what I did.

Q. Highlights from today?

ÉTIENNE PAPINEAU: I think it was -- I mean, I think the bounce back right after the bogey on 2 was incredible. Like making a birdie after a bogey is good, but making five of them right after a bogey in the final round I think was pretty incredible. I'm proud the way I just handled the whole week.

Q. That was your dad on the bag, right?

ÉTIENNE PAPINEAU: No.

Q. Who was on your bag?

ÉTIENNE PAPINEAU: It was Neal. Neal was my caddie that I won with three years ago, so we kept the same team, same everything.

Q. What's his name?

ÉTIENNE PAPINEAU: Neal Ryan. He's a member out here. Yeah, it was awesome to have Neal on the bag again. We just went back to back. It's been awesome to have Neal on the team. It was a special moment.

Q. Is Victoria your second hometown now?

ÉTIENNE PAPINEAU: Yes. It might be my retirement home, we'll see. Maybe I'll retire whenever I retire and come here and play golf.

Q. Is he a guy that gives you advice out there and helps you out or is he a guy that keeps you in a good mood?

ÉTIENNE PAPINEAU: Yeah, he's trying to keep me in a good mood, but we also discuss numbers and stuff. Whenever I need him, he's always ready. Yeah, as I said, it's good to have Neal. He's super calm, super positive and that's what I need on the course.

Q. When you won for the first time this year, you battled back from the struggles that kind of culminated with that win. Now to back that up with a win again, what does that say about your game, where you're at and just your confidence level right now?

ÉTIENNE PAPINEAU: Yeah, I feel pretty good. Having two wins under the belt this year, it proves a lot to myself. Yeah, the struggle at the beginning of the year I think was probably -- you know, sometimes it's good that it happens because you learn a lot from it



and that's what I did. I was able to learn from it and bounce back and find my confidence back. Yeah, first half of the season was a struggle, but the last three months have been incredible and I'm proud of it.

Q. You know you're going on to the Korn Ferry now. (Inaudible). What's the key now moving on in your career?

ÉTIENNE PAPINEAU: Yeah, I mean, if I'm able to go back on Korn Ferry, it will give me a second chance. I played there for two years and I learned a lot. I didn't play well last year and that's why I came back here on PGA TOUR Americas.

Again, if I go back, it'll give me a second chance. So learned a lot from the past two years on Korn Ferry and hopefully, yeah, hopefully I don't make the same mistakes and I just go there more prepared.

Q. You have a trophy to raise. How did it feel to have the crowd sing "Happy Birthday" to you and how are you enjoying your 30s?

ÉTIENNE PAPINEAU: Yeah, it's crazy celebrating to win on my 30th birthday to a place where I won in the past, it's incredible. And the crowd, it was awesome for them to sing me "Happy Birthday." It means a lot. Proud to be Canadian and having them celebrate with me was awesome.

Q. Momentum is everything in golf. First place in the points list now. Talk to me about the next goal.

ÉTIENNE PAPINEAU: Yeah, obviously the goal is to get that first spot. I think Thomas is still a little bit ahead. He's been playing some unbelievable golf this year, so it's well deserved.

Yeah, I'll go out there, play my best and we'll see what happens. That's what I'm trying to do every week, just play my best and see what happens. Yeah, I mean, now it's definitely reachable, but still I have to play some good golf to get to that spot.

