

MEMORIAL HEALTH CHAMPIONSHIP

Presented by LRS

ROUND 3 INTERVIEW

July 16, 2022



AUSTIN ECKROAT (-21)

Q. Austin, tied for the lead heading into the final round. How are you feeling?

AUSTIN ECKROAT: Pretty good. I mean, if people would have told me I'd shoot 7 under today and was tied for the lead instead of having the individual lead, I wouldn't have believed you. It was crazy, scoring today was unbelievable. Hopefully it's not as low tomorrow, but we'll see.

Q. Can you take us through your round? I believe it was pars across on the front and then turned it on for the back. What did you do at the turn there?

AUSTIN ECKROAT: I really wasn't playing good on the front nine, my short game was saving me. I was missing greens. Then the back nine something clicked, started hitting it close. I was putting it good because I was making the par putts and then I just started to give myself birdie putts and they started going in. I thought I was going to birdie them all, but seven on the back nine's a lot.

Q. What was it about the course? There were tons of low rounds. What was it about the course that helped the players out?

AUSTIN ECKROAT: Honestly, I don't know. I didn't think it played any easier today than it has the first two rounds. Greens were pretty soft, it might have been the rain yesterday that we got, but I was honestly shocked when I looked at the leaderboard and saw I think after nine holes I was outside the top-10. I was even par, which isn't very good, but I mean, I didn't think I would be that far back.

Q. I think this is the 10th start of the year, first two tournaments missed the cut, kind of struggling for starts, and then it kind of clicked for you.

AUSTIN ECKROAT: Yeah.

Q. Do you feel real strong about where your game's at?

AUSTIN ECKROAT: Yeah. I mean, those early events I played in, game wasn't good. Then I knew the game has been good all year. I played Monday qualifier after Monday qualifier, shoot 5 under par and go home. So I knew the game was good, I just needed an opportunity and I finally got those those first four events of the eight in a row that I played and yeah, everything's been solid. Really happy with where I'm at.

Q. Go back two months ago and you're -- I mean, no real status.

AUSTIN ECKROAT: Yeah.

Q. Does that seem years ago now?

AUSTIN ECKROAT: Oh, yeah, yeah. I mean, even the first event I played in after getting in finally, it feels like a year ago. Yeah, it seems like a different lifetime. Yeah, like you said though, I was walking back to Q-School, I was in a really bad spot status wise, now I've got a good opportunity to jump ahead of that now.

Q. What are you most looking forward to about tomorrow to find out about yourself?

AUSTIN ECKROAT: You know, I've played with Rob Oppenheim before, great guy. It will be fun if it's a battle with him. I didn't see who our other guy that we're going to be playing with tomorrow is. I haven't been in contention as a pro yet, it's going to be fun. Glad with how I bounced back today, kind of had the nerves at the beginning and hopefully that leads into tomorrow.

Q. What is the pressure? Is it only about the win or is there that other carrot of that Top-25?

AUSTIN ECKROAT: Right.

Q. Do you try and balance it or how do you, human nature, avoid thinking what that carrot is out there?

AUSTIN ECKROAT: You know, I've already kind of been thinking about it this week. It's kind of hard not to think about it. As long as you're focused over the 30 seconds you're hitting the ball, I think you're fine. Try to get the mind to wander not too much, but if it does, you can still get focused on the shot you're about to hit. Mind has been wandering so need to probably slow that down a little bit. That might have been the problem on the front nine.

Q. And then you're tied for the lead, but seeing the scores today, this is not one, like even if you make a birdie, you may even lose one.

AUSTIN ECKROAT: Right.

Q. Is that maybe a little benefit, the fact that you know you have to put your foot down on the pedal?

AUSTIN ECKROAT: Yeah, if you have a lead going into Sunday, sometimes you just try not to make bogeys. Out here it's not the case. If you don't make birdies, you're going to fall back. I think, yeah, that's a good mindset, you're attacking even with a lead. You're going to

be attacking the pins because if not, you're going to fall back.