

**Chitimacha Louisiana Open presented by MISTRAS
Second-Round Transcripts | Friday, March 18, 2022**

Shad Tuten (-11, Outright Leader)

City Plays From: Aiken, South Carolina | Turned Pro: 2016 | College: Armstrong State University
Exempt Status: Top 75 in 2020-21 Regular Season Standings (thru 2022)

On his drive staying out of the penalty area on No. 18...

“A series of fortunate events, I would put it that way. Ten out of 10, that ball’s in the water, and I got a drop (from the cart path) and fortunate to hit it close. Honestly, I hit the ball better today than I did yesterday, I just putted the eyes out of it yesterday. Today, the greens got a little bumpy in the afternoon, but that’s expected. But hit the ball great, feeling good.”

On holding the outright 36-hole lead...

“Feeling pretty good. I’d be lying if I said I wasn’t. I’m not really comfortable being in this position because I haven’t been, but I’m just going to ride it out, have fun with it and keep going.”

On the last time he was in this position...

“The biggest one that sticks out in my mind is the 2019 Brazilian Open (on PGA TOUR Latinoamérica). That was by far my biggest win. That’s what I kind of fall back on, really.”

On what else he falls back on with regards to being in contention...

“Honestly, for me, just reminding myself to go have fun, and really just stay in the moment and enjoy it. It’s not often I get to put myself in this position, so I’m enjoying it and it’s working.”

On his tee shot at the par-4 18th...

“Oh, it was 10 out of 10 it was in the water, a thousand percent. I just got a good break. You can’t win it on the second day, but it certainly helps. It made up for a couple of little shorty putts that I missed, so it feels good to finish that way.”

On what he will do prepare for Saturday...

“Probably going to go eat a pretty juicy steak, maybe have a beer and enjoy myself. I gotta do some laundry if you really want to know, so that’s what I’m going to do.”

On how he’s feeling heading into the weekend...

“Just kinda feeding off the guys, because I’m playing with guys that are playing well, and I will be, and I’m playing well. I’m ready to put it to the test and I’m excited to keep going.”

On the birdie-birdie finish...

“We had a good number and we had a great angle coming in (to No. 17), and I knew I’d been hitting my wedges well all week. I hit it to maybe 2 feet. Some of those shots you hit in there you can kind of walk up there breathing a little easier, that was one of those.”

On his birdie putt at No. 18...

“Seven, 8 feet, pretty straight putt. Obviously you want to make every putt, but those kind of keep your momentum going, especially mentally.”

On his round and week overall...

“I just played really solid, I hit the ball great today, and just going off that momentum. I’ve been playing really solid, I’ve had a lot of tournaments where I’ve had three good rounds and kind of a mediocre round. I feel recharged and I’m just ready to play.”

Braden Thornberry (-10, Solo Second)

City Plays From: Olive Branch, Mississippi | Turned Pro: 2018 | College: University of Mississippi
Exempt Status: Top 75 in 2020-21 Regular Season Standings (thru 2022)

On his second round...

“Another day where I felt like for the most part I was putting myself in position to have birdie putts. I was kind of going through phases each part of the round. The putter, I’d make a few and then a couple slid by but, overall, with the wind like it is, especially picking up later in the day, I’m very happy with where I’m at.”

On capitalizing on the par 5s...

“So No. 5, it was a birdie on the scorecard, but actually I laid up in the bunker there, and had like 80 yards out of the bunker and was able to hit that to like 3 feet. That was a little bit of a bonus. I definitely would have taken par once I was in that bunker, but it’s good momentum. It seems like when you’re playing well, it seems to go your way on those stretches, and when you’re not it kind of goes the opposite way. Just trying to keep doing what I’m doing and let that momentum do what it does.”

On his putting this week...

“Yeah, it’s been great these two days. I feel like I’m always hitting putts how I want, but I just don’t see other greens quite as well. I probably played the first eight years of my life on greens pretty much exactly like this, so I just feel like every putt, even when I miss it, it does what I expected it to do. I don’t get fooled a lot, which is great when the wind picks up like this. It’s a little bit different. You can get gusts and stuff. I just feel really comfortable over the ball and I feel like if I hit a lot of putts how I want to, it’ll go in.”

On the wind picking up...

“Especially the last four or five holes, it really picked up. No. 9 there, I finished with a bogey. I hit a nice drive and had full 4-iron in there and came up short still. Yesterday, I hit driver, 9-iron on that hole. It depends on what stretch of the golf course you’re on. I think that’s a really hard hole, and some of the start on the back nine, Nos. 10-14, plays really tough. It kind of depends on the wind direction out here.”

On what is working so well for him this week...

“I can’t really narrow it down. Obviously to make 13 birdies, you’re putting it well, but I’ve given myself a lot of opportunities, too. I’ve made a lot – three or four – bonus putts, (of) 30 feet or more, but I’ve had a lot from 12-15 feet that I haven’t made. It’s been good ball striking as well to set up those opportunities.”

On his experience being atop a leaderboard...

“I was around the lead a lot in college, so I learned how that is, and then the last couple of years I haven’t been as much. (Contending) here last year definitely helped. I was in a similar spot, maybe three or four off the lead after two days. Every time it’s a chance to learn whether it’s good or bad, kind of just do my best and learn from it every time.”

On his three bogeys in the second round...

“I was able to avoid them yesterday, I made a couple of putts to avoid them, but on No. 9 it’s a really hard tee shot, was lucky to hit a good one there. It’s coming off the left and you can’t start it left. I like hitting a fade off the tee. Hit a good tee shot there and still had 200 yards straight into the wind, blowing probably 15 or 20 (miles per hour). I’m not guaranteed to make bogey there. I could hit a good shot to 20 feet and make par, but it’s tough to do that all the way around for 18 holes. Overall, making more birdies than bogeys, I’ll take it.”

On if anyone is here following him...

“My girlfriend is coming tonight, but currently there’s nobody. Hopefully we’ll have some more good stuff on the weekend. I have not told her (about today).”

On if family and friends support at the course provides more motivation or pressure...

“Neither, but it definitely is more comfortable. You have somebody to go to dinner with. It’s a little less lonely in general. Golf can be a pretty lonely sport in general. You don’t have a team or anything. It’s just you in a hotel room for a week. Your caddie is kind of your best friend out here. It definitely helps ease tension a little bit. You think about golf less and enjoy life off the golf course more.”

Peter Uihlein (-9, T3)

City Plays From: Jupiter, Florida | Turned Pro: 2011 | College: Oklahoma State University
Exempt Status: PGA TOUR – Top 50 from 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour (thru 2021-22)

On his second round...

“It was fine. The wind came out of the west a little bit, so it made it a little bit trickier. Some holes played harder than yesterday, and it got pretty bouncy at the end. The greens got pretty quick. It was a good, solid day really.”

On whether his past success here means anything for him...

“Yeah, like I said yesterday, I like the golf course. I’m glad it stayed firm. There was some rain, but I’m glad it stayed firm and bouncy. I had good success last year so it helps.”

On his expectations for the weekend...

“My goal? No idea. I’ve said I have three target goals, and I was just trying to accomplish that today. That’s probably what I’m going to keep doing on the weekend.”

On how much he’s watching the leaderboard...

“Until you’re really in the final round on the back nine, there’s no point.”

On what worked well today...

“My brain, I feel like I thought my way around the golf course well, which was nice. I felt like I hit myself into good spots, left it in some good spots, holed a couple of nice putts in the middle of the round, missed some short ones coming in, but it all kind of evened out. I just played a solid day. The greens are quicker than I was really expecting, so the longer putts were tough, but all in all it was fine.”

Mark Hubbard (-9, T3)

City Plays From: Denver, Colorado | Turned Pro: 2012 | College: San Jose State University
Exempt Status: PGA TOUR – 126-150 in 2020-21 FedExCup standings (thru 2021-22)

On finally getting some putts to drop...

“I felt like I was hitting my lines all day. You know, that’s golf. They don’t always go in, but as long as I keep hitting my lines and keep putting it the way I want to, I know they’ll eventually go in, and they did the last few holes.”

On how the course played today compared to Thursday...

“It definitely got a little bit firmer and faster today. Balls were running out through the fairway a little more and releasing on greens a little more. I had a couple of lag putts that got away from me on the front. You expect that out here. It usually can get a little crusty throughout the week. More to come this weekend I’m sure.”

On his approach to today teeing off tied for the lead...

“It’s too early, and honestly it’s always too early on this Tour. Guys take it so low that you just kind of keep the blinders on and try to make as many birdies as possible. Same thing for the weekend. Keep the pedal down.”

Trevor Werbylo (-9, T3)

City Plays From: Tucson, Arizona | Turned Pro: 2021 | College: University of Arizona
Exempt Status: 2021 Forme Tour Order of Merit Winner (thru 2022)

On how he felt entering the week...

"I felt good coming in here, nice and rested. I felt like my game was in a good spot. I've been playing pretty solid all year. The last two days have definitely been a good start. I'm looking forward to the weekend."

On how he's played this week...

"I've just done everything well. I haven't done anything all that poorly, I haven't made a whole lot of mistakes, just felt like I'm managing my game well, putting the ball in the right spots. If I do hit a bad shot, I'm leaving it in the right spots to get up and down. My game's good, I've had a good game plan to try to attack the course so far."

On the changing winds...

"Luckily, in the three practice rounds we got slightly different winds each day. The winds we got the last two days I saw at least once in the practice rounds, so I think that helped. There's definitely some holes that we're playing that are playing different. No. 9... on No. 14 yesterday I had pitching wedge in and today I hit it left, but even if I was in the fairway it probably been a 3-iron or 3-wood into the green. It was nice to see it in the practice round and know how some of the holes would play."

On his putting this week...

"It's good. I struggled with the putter a little bit a couple of weeks ago in Puerto Rico. I was hitting it well and I knew I wasn't far off with the putter. I'm still hitting it well and been able to roll it a little better this week. Hopefully that'll continue the next couple of days."

On his position entering the weekend...

"There's so much golf left. Everyone says you can't win the tournament on the first day or even the second day, but you can lose it. You just want to hang around, put yourself in a good position. A lot of golf left and a lot left that can happen the next two days."

Boyd Owens (+3, T117 – Open Qualifier)

City Plays From: Baton Rouge, Louisiana | Turned Pro: n/a | Episcopal School of Baton Rouge
Age: 18 | Year in High School: Senior | College Commitment: Wake Forest University

On playing well his final nine holes...

“It was pretty good. It just took me a while to settle in starting the rounds. I was pretty nervous being my first (professional) start and all that. Just kind of hitting the par 5s good and making a couple of putts here and there.”

On the experience overall this week...

“It was really fun. It took me a while to settle in, just coming out here. I’ve never been nervous like that, quite honestly. The holes I normally would have bounced back on, it took me a little longer to bounce back on.”

On the players he met this week...

“Rafael Campos, I ate lunch with him both days; he was actually really helpful with me, answered all my questions. Both the guys I played with (Christopher Malec and Derek Fribbs) also really helped me and helped me learn a lot. It was really fun being out here.”

On what advice Rafael Campos gave him...

“Just to keep working hard and keep playing as many of these as I can, and keep putting myself in these situations to where I can get more comfortable.”

On his upcoming plans...

“I’ll probably do a couple more (Monday qualifiers), but from now I just have a bunch of amateur tournaments coming up through the summer, and I’ll probably play a Monday qualifier here and there if they’re around the area.”

On having friends and family out to support him...

“I really haven’t had this much of a crowd. It was really fun to see that many people supporting me. It’s just really awesome. It was fun, cool that this many people watch the game. It shows there’s a lot of people that love golf out there. I think it’s really cool that we had this many people support.”

On how many followers he gained on Instagram...

“Probably like 500 or so, something around there, a good bit.”

On what he will do the rest of the day...

“I’ll probably just go eat with all my friends and probably just head home. I do have to go to class Monday.”

On his upcoming high school schedule...

“I’m really looking forward to it, because it’s a bunch of people I know. Getting to play with my friends, it’s just more of a relaxed, fun thing.”

On coming back to Le Triomphe Golf & Country Club for the state championship tournament...

“Yes, sir. Looking forward to that, hopefully it’ll be a little easier for me then.”