



Second-Round Transcripts | Simmons Bank Open for the Snedeker Foundation | Friday, May 6, 2022

Quade Cummins (-12, Leader)

City Plays From: Edmond, Oklahoma | Turned Pro: 2021 | College: University of Oklahoma

Exempt Status (Season): Additional Qualifying Tournament Finishers (thru 2022)

Exempt Status (Tournament): Top 25 from Previous Event

On his last two rounds...

"I started my round off with a birdie and I haven't really even been close to being over par, which is always fun to go throughout your round not worrying about hitting bad shots or making bogeys. It's been really fun two days. I feel like I've taken advantage of most of the holes, I've let some par 5s get away but that's going to happen every now and then, but I've played really solid the first two days."

On the course setup...

"The last two weeks it seems like the trouble has been on my miss side (left), and so I have to stay really focused on driving the ball and I've been driving it really well the last couple of weeks. I'm hitting a lot of fairways, a lot of greens, and the putter has been working. Everything is clicking right now."

On his T4 finish last week giving him confidence...

"It wasn't a rough start to the year, but I've had some rough tournaments. Having that T4 and getting in the mix on the weekend, being in the last couple of groups, it was really fun having the Huntsville crowd out there. It was really fun and it just made me feel like I could do it. I already knew I could do it, but I hadn't had the results to show for it, so it's fun seeing the results come with it."

On his decision to spend six years in college...

"It really wasn't my decision. The redshirt year, I just wasn't good enough to make the lineup. Coach (Ryan) Hybl saw something in me and sat me down, he said 'Hey, let's think about redshirting this year.' It took a lot of weight off my shoulders and freed me up to start picking the brains of the guys that were traveling. It can be intimidating at times when you're not traveling and you see them pull out of the parking lot in the van. Then coming back after COVID, I just didn't see any upside of turning pro and chasing Mondays when we were getting the privilege of the PGA TOUR University that next year. I know how tough professional golf can be. If you don't have status, it's a tough life and getting that [PGA TOUR Canada] status and getting to Second Stage of Q-School was huge. It wasn't a lock that that was going to happen, but fortunately I played well to get in that position. I'm just grateful that I was able to use PGA TOUR University because if I only went to school for four years, I don't know if I'd out here right now."

On placing T127 at Final Stage...

"It was rough. I think I was in the last group off of No. 10 the last round, so it wasn't it wasn't very fun golf."

On his mindset heading into the 2022 season..

"In professional golf, I don't know a lot of terms about status and whatnot, but everybody kept telling me, 'It's huge.' I actually got into Final Stage on the number from Second Stage and everybody kept telling me, 'That's huge, you have status no matter what,' and I'm like, 'Yeah, but I finished 127th, how could that be good?' I Monday (qualified) in the first chance I could get and then placed top 15 and it reshuffled me. I missed a few tournaments until I got into the big reshuffle after eight events and now I know what they're talking about. It was a pretty long three or four months waiting on those first Mondays."

On what Monday qualifying into the Panama Championship meant to him...

"It's just crazy that it worked out like that. Going to Panama, knowing that this is your one shot, you don't know if you'll get another one, and being able to produce and top-25 to get into the next tournament helped my confidence a lot. When you're not playing in tournaments, you don't know if you have a full year ahead of you, and you don't know what you're playing in and that can be tough."

On being in contention heading into the weekend...

"I feel good. My game feels good, but half the tournament still has to be played, so, if some guy shoots 10-under out there I can't do anything about that. I'm just going to have to go play my game and take advantage of the holes and when I can, and hopefully they'll be good enough to put something up on Sunday."

On believing in his game and his confidence...

"In the off week after Arlington, I don't know what I finished in Arlington but I missed the cut by a mile. Coach Hybl actually had an alumni thing that Monday after Arlington and we had all the guys that were from Dallas and Edmond come back, and we hung out for the day and everybody told their professional golf story. I'm so young that I really don't have much to say, but just listening to guys like Martin Flores, he stood out to me, and so did Charlie Saxon and his story. I've been playing professional golf for almost a year, and that just doesn't compare to what they've gone through and what other people have gone through. I always get down on myself when I miss cuts, you just feel like, 'Is this for me?' because you know you're going to play well, hopefully more than you play bad. It is very low times when you're missing cuts, so going back to Norman and hanging out with the guys and hearing their stories really gave me some motivation. Also, OU won the Big 12 Championship right before Huntsville, and it got everybody's spirits up. They're the No. 1 team in the country, they win Big 12, they beat two really good teams, Texas and Oklahoma State. Then last week, it felt like my game was there, and two weeks ago I don't know if I would have said that."

On if he considers that to be more of a mental struggle...

"I don't know what it is. I told myself in Huntsville, 'Do not hit a shot until you're comfortable,' because that golf course is very uncomfortable. I fade the golf ball so having to start it over canyons and having to trust your fade and it worked, so I'm trying to do that this week as well and just trying to get comfortable for every shot."

On if the past two weeks have been some of his best in his professional career...

"I had a really good stretch in amateur golf, but no, not as a pro. This is by far the best I've played. I think my first two pro tournaments on [PGA TOUR Canada] I placed top 10, but I wasn't playing golf of this caliber, so it's always fun to see yourself do things that you haven't done before. Then last week,

I couldn't tell you last time I played in the second to last group or final group, and it just felt like it came back natural. It felt like I was supposed to be there and it felt comfortable. When you're playing good, that happens, and when you're playing bad you get nervous at weird times, or you feel pressure at weird times, but when you're playing good it frees you up."

On his relationship to other players on the PGA TOUR or other tours...

"One of my best friends, Austin Eckroat, has been chasing Mondays and just seeing what he's gone through. He lost in a seven-hole playoff for Lake Charles (Championship) and then he goes to the next one and wins in the playoff and then misses the cut. I know he's good enough to be out here and good enough to be on the PGA TOUR. All the guys at Oak Tree (National), like Matthew Wolff, were talking about the same thing. Having guys that are at the highest level be in your back pocket and be there for questions that you don't really know the answer for but they do. It's really fun to be able to ask them questions and see their perspective on things."

On the Matthew Wolff video posted by PGA TOUR...

"Yeah, I saw it. I kind of know what he's going through, but I don't know the whole thing and what's on his mind. He tells me things but who knows what he's actually thinking. That's some of the stuff that pro golf throws at you. You can't help it sometimes. Him talking about that and I'm trying to get comfortable for every shot and not let anything get to me. Right before he went to the U.S. Open at Winged Foot, he had the 54-hole lead and seeing him do that, and to see Viktor (Hovland) do that, and see (Abraham) Ancer do that. It's so fun to have friends that are at the highest level and hopefully I can get there soon. But if not, it is what it is."

On how Oklahoma State and University of Oklahoma players can get along...

"Everybody wants us to hate each other. On social media, we'll get into it or whatnot, but when we're sitting down eating dinner, we're all best friends. There's no bitter beef between us as people or golfers. If it comes down to them at the national championship, maybe we won't talk to each other for a couple of days, but we're all we're all good friends."

Brent Grant (-10, 2nd)

City Plays From: Honolulu, Hawaii | Turned Pro: 2017

Exempt Status: Top 75 on 2020-21 Regular Season Points List

On his second round performance...

"Starting the day, we thought that we wouldn't get any golf in, so thankful to get it started. I feel at peace out here. This place fits me really well and I've had a good game plan so far and we've executed it as best as we can."

On how the course fits his game...

"I can hit 3-wood of a lot of the tees and I don't necessarily need to lay too far back, or too close... the distances are all good. I grew up on Bermuda grass and the greens are really great here so I feel comfortable."

On his confidence coming into the week knowing he held the course record...

"I had no idea. I just assumed that 64 had been shot a couple of times and I didn't realize that I did that last year on Saturday. I feel at peace out here and I'm thankful to have good weather during my rounds, and hopefully it keeps going and I keep making putts."

On today being his lowest tournament round of the season...

"I had a stumble last weekend, but the game is where it needs to be. We figured out that the driver had a broken head, so that didn't help. We fixed that this week. I was rolling it good last week, distance control was great. I like this place."

On being in contention heading into the weekend...

"I'm just thankful to be here and to be competing with these guys. All of these guys can win at any time but it would be cool to get it done. Mother's Day is coming up and that's a big deal, so it would be a blessing for sure."

On playing a longer and wider course compared to last week's tournament...

"The fairways are the same grass here and they were at the Ledges, you want to plot it more there because the ball moves a lot more just with the hills. Out here it's not much different, surprisingly. It seems to be a much longer course but the way the hole is shaped it seems to be 3-wood, 8-iron, 9-iron for me and it's been good."

On playing No. 2...

"It's generally downwind on the left which is great for me because I fade it, so I can let one loose. I'm familiar with a 200-yard yardage and it's a nice cut 6-iron for me. I hit it to a foot or so last year twice and then I hit it to 3 feet today, it just happens to fit me really well. When I cut it and it lands soft, I get to do what I want with it."

On what feels the best about his game coming into this week...

"I feel good about everything. We've continued to work hard on the putting, wedges and short game. There's some holes there that need to be filled. We've stayed patient and continued to work hard, just take it one step at a time."



On his eagle on No. 2...

"It was down off the left and we had 208 yards front and 213 yards to the pin. It was between a 7-iron and a 6-iron, but we didn't have enough wind to get the 7-iron there, so I just hoisted a big cut 6-iron. It landed pin high left and there's a slope there... it just rolled down to about four feet and thankfully, my playing competitor, David Kocher, gave me a read and I hit it right in the middle."

On how he stays calm and disconnects after rounds...

"My girlfriend has been with me for the last few weeks, which is great and I've got family friends that are in town, but, honestly, my caddie is really good at what he does. Chris is absolutely phenomenal and God is always with me so I'm good with that."

