

ROUND 3 INTERVIEW: JUSTIN ROSE
May 7, 2016



Q. Justin, how good does a round in the 60s feel on yet another very difficult day out there at Quail Hollow?

JUSTIN ROSE: I wasn't expecting t to be that tough, I thought it was going to be more in the 80s and less wind, and moving day, move up a couple of holes, give us some chances. But it turned out to be an incredibly difficult golf course again. 69 was just what the doctor ordered in a sense, got me right where I want to be going into tomorrow.

Q. We know that this place is going to host a major next year, the PGA Championship, that's one of the four. How much does it feel like a major test this week with the conditions as they are and how much does it rely on patience?

JUSTIN ROSE: Yeah, I mean this type of scoring would definitely hold up in a PGA Championship. They're not looking for us to shoot even par like a U.S. Open. Single digits under par is really good golf and it's a sign of a great golf course, I think. I've seen the plans for this golf course and it's only going to make it tougher. And I think bermuda, it's going to be in August, so right now we're playing a nice overseed, which I think is much easier to chip out of. With bermuda rough you'll get flyers and I think the golf course will play incredibly difficult.

Q. A couple of your highlights today if we can, coming off birdie at 7, this is at 8. This is the sort of distance you're feeling really comfortable?

JUSTIN ROSE: Yeah, this is a really good bunker shot to get to this position and this was a sneaky putt. I actually saw John kept in the right edge and it looks fairly flat, but it breaks quite a bit left to right so definitely got a good read off John.

Q. You're looking forward to seeing this one. You said you wanted to hole more distance putts. The speed on this --

JUSTIN ROSE: I can't even tell you guys how lightening fast this was. That green was just shiny coming down there. All I'm trying to do is lag it down and get somewhere near the cup. Right here I definitely knew I made it and then it tried to miss. So even though that was trickling to the hole, that was three, four feet past. That was a really tough pin today.

Q. And then at 18 you said (inaudible) and you had an opportunity here?

JUSTIN ROSE: Yeah, I hit my drive miles down there, I only had 120 to the hole, tried to hit a tiny wedge in there. Ended up in a really good spot, but again, the putt broke left to right and I figured I wasn't that far away from straight, only a foot to the left of it but again it was a putt that trickled into the hole.

Q. Justin, looked like you were really hitting those irons very sharply out there today. How was that iron play?

JUSTIN ROSE: Yeah, iron play was good today for sure. I think pretty much everything was good. It was a trickier day than I was expecting. I thought today obviously being moving day, I thought we had nicer conditions forecast but it was a little breezier than I anticipated. The course definitely firmed up a touch and the pin placements were just nasty in some places. So all in all, a good day's work. I'm not seeing many scores. What was the low score, 68 potentially?

Q. James Hahn shot 68.

JUSTIN ROSE: Yeah, and I see Rickie at 68. So that's low score of the day so I was right there with that. Drove the ball incredibly well today I think. Pretty long and straight so that set up some great opportunities. Again, left a few out there which is good to know going into tomorrow that I walked off the golf course still feeling there's a little more in the tank and hopefully that pulls through for me tomorrow.

Q. Can we talk about the specific putt on 13 from 50 feet away, how did you manage that one?

JUSTIN ROSE: That's the putt of the year for me so far, no doubt. It's really a putt you're just hoping to two-putt. So glassy, so quick. I was actually visualizing the hole to be, like some amateur caddies give amateurs like 50 percent power or putt halfway as a real kind of crude way of trying to gauge the pace. But it was so quick I almost tried to do exactly that, just tried to putt it half the distance of what the actual putt was. It definitely was on my line, and a foot from the hole I thought it was in the middle, it tried to sneak right on me but fortunately it went in.

Q. Justin, talk about your round a little bit out there today. Very good score, 3 under par for the day.

JUSTIN ROSE: Absolutely. I was just saying it was a little trickier of a day than I was anticipating. 68 was low score of the day so very, very happy with 69. Moved my way right into contention tomorrow, pretty much right where you want to be, within a couple of shots. Yeah, pretty excited. Last time I played here in Charlotte was a good experience for me, finished top 5. So it's obviously a course I'm enjoying playing and especially this week, it's pretty strategic, the greens are incredibly fast so you've got to be spot on with your iron play to keep it under the hole and all those good things, and these are the type of golf courses I like to play.

Q. Hard golf courses suit you. Why is that?

JUSTIN ROSE: I think it showcases maybe my iron play, which is normally pretty good.

This year it hasn't been spot on but beginning to hit some nice iron play. I've driven the ball pretty well so far. Even though I haven't hit a ton of fairways, I've been in the first cut a lot and driving it pretty long so that's setting up some opportunities. If I can -- I made a great putt today on No. 13, 50-footer. But if I can make just a few more of those mid range putts from 15, 20 feet, then tomorrow could be a good day.

Q. Have you seen a golf course change as much as this one has since Thursday? It's dried out obviously, but it seems like it's played, as it's dried out it's played a little tougher.

JUSTIN ROSE: For sure. That's always the MO. You know, when courses dry out for us, they do play tougher. When you give us soft, wet conditions, it's target golf, we can fly it at the flag and you can be very aggressive. As it firms up you'll be a little bit more respectful of some pin placements. I think the low humidity that we had the first couple days and being fairly cool helped dry out the course. Sometimes when it's very humid, the moisture kind of sits in the ground. So definitely the first couple days with the wind as well dried things out.

Q. What's the mindset going into tomorrow with the leaderboard that it's been fluctuating a bunch the last couple days?

JUSTIN ROSE: Obviously Rickie's played himself to the top of the leaderboard. There's a mix of kind of who you'd expect to be there, some top-10 in the world players and then some guys trying to maybe win for the first time or guys you wouldn't expect to be up there. It's all to play for tomorrow. So the talent is so deep out here on Tour that you can never underestimate anybody out there. So for me it doesn't -- you know, not pay too much attention to the leaderboard. If I'm going to win this golf tournament, if I was Rickie and I was 9 under or if I was Justin Rose at 7 under, whoever that guy is, he'll go and play great golf tomorrow. The point is not to care too much about the leaderboard and just focus on a good round of golf.