

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW
August 2, 2018

JUSTIN THOMAS (-5)



Q. Only one hiccup on the scorecard for Justin Thomas, 15 out of 18 greens. How good were the irons today?

JUSTIN THOMAS: I played really solid. You know, I hit a lot of good tee shots. I feel like my number of fairways maybe didn't show, I hit a couple first cuts, but yeah, I really struck the ball beautifully with my irons. I just had one just kind of brain fart there where I just hit a terrible iron shot there on 12 and made bogey. Yeah, today really could have been a low one.

Q. You talked in your pre-tournament press conference how much you like this golf course, it feels a lot like home, it suits your eye. Did that provide some extra motivation, because you kind of joked that you've never really done well in this tournament?

JUSTIN THOMAS: Yeah. Well, I felt like it's kind of like Riviera, like I said earlier this year. I played it three times and I had really no success at all and I was able to play well this year. So I feel like when you play places you like, eventually, at least you hope, that you're going to play well. This is obviously a good start, but have three more days to keep it going.

Q. Four birdies in the first five holes, 65's still a great score on this golf course, but I know you think you probably could have had it a little bit lower out there today?

JUSTIN THOMAS: Yeah, just because of how well I hit it. It had nothing to do with the start. It definitely helped, but man, I hit a lot of really, really good iron shots there kind of the end of the front nine, beginning of the second nine to where I could have had some more birdies. I had a lot of good looks, I just didn't feel comfortable with my putter and I wasn't hitting good putts, but there the last four or five holes I was able to roll it a little better.

Q. Complete control I thought tee to green there at the very beginning of the start. On this golf course if it just leaks a little bit on you, how do you try to adjust and adapt when you're off maybe a couple of yards on a couple of lines today?

JUSTIN THOMAS: Yeah, that's the thing, I drove it, I thought, beautifully today and I think I only hit like six fairways. I was in a couple first cuts on the drive. Like 18 was a yard or two yards from being in the center of the fairway and I'm in the rough kind of behind a tree. But that's just what I love about this golf course. It's such a great design, you can't fake it around it. You hit the fairways, soft as it is, it's not very difficult. The greens are small, so if you're striking the ball well, you have a significant advantage over the field.

Q. We were expecting some first tee dance shenanigans from you, I don't know if we got much of it. I'm sure there was some subtle conversation inside the ropes today, but I thought you and Phil kind of pulled each other early in that round, kind of going shot for shot competing out there?

JUSTIN THOMAS: We did. You know, we joked, maybe we joked too soon on 12 tee that we may need to text Jim, that we have a pretty good best ball going. But no, we got off to a great start and hit a lull there in the middle of the round, but it wasn't because we weren't playing well. We had some good looks, just nothing was falling.