

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW
17 October 2019



JUSTIN THOMAS (-4)

Q. You had a pretty good day out there. Just some quick comments about your round?

JUSTIN THOMAS: Yeah, it was a good day. I got off to a good start. I was kind of disappointed with how I finished those last, I guess last five holes. I felt like I could have made a couple more birdies. Yeah, I mean, I just laid the sod over an 8-iron into a par 5 and made a terrible bogey and then had a really bad three-putt, so I feel like today could have easily been a 7 or 8 under, but still a good start for the week.

Q. A question about the 13th hole. It's a par-3 hole and you aimed for an on-green and you used wedge. I was wondering what was the game plan there?

JUSTIN THOMAS: Yeah, to putt it, I had to be so perfect. I had to go up the slope quite a bit and I had to have the perfect speed. I felt like it was a putt that I would two-putt probably one out of 10 times. Chipping it I felt like was a lot easier, I could take a lot of the slope out of it and land it past it. Just with having a little bit of cut spin on it, it was going to land soft. So I just felt like it was going to be a lot easier to try and chip than putt.

Q. I have a question about your tee shots today, like when we see the round today, the opening round, it seems like your tee shots were not quite accurate. Any reasons behind that?

JUSTIN THOMAS: I started out not driving it well, but I drove it beautifully pretty much from number -- my sixth hole on I drove it really, really well other than the last hole. So it was really not too much I was worried about. I couldn't -- a couple drives here or there that were close, but for the most part I felt like I drove it fine.

Q. Many players who actually come to Jeju to play this tournament talk about the wind, but today it was not that windy. So what would be your strategy for weather like this one?

JUSTIN THOMAS: Yeah, there wasn't much wind, but it was a totally different direction than it was forecasted, so that made it difficult. There was so little of it, and being in the trees like this, the wind really bounces around everywhere so sometimes it's kind of hard to judge. Yeah, this is about as perfect and easy as this place can play in terms of wind, but the greens are very firm or they're not spinning very much so that makes it difficult. The wind was very, very light today but swirling quite a bit, so it's tough to judge.

Q. So one last question, so you've been playing in this tournament since 2017, so if

you were to give a score out of 100 to the overall setup and the difficulty level of the course, what would it be for each year from 2017?

JUSTIN THOMAS: I mean, it was obviously very difficult in 2017, and then last year it was very, very easy. I mean, we're only one day in this year, so you just don't know what it's going to be because the wind can pick up and it could rain, the pins could be tough. It was somewhere in the middle today of the first two years, but in terms of a score, it's hard because it plays so different every year.

Q. Can we get some overall comments about your round today?

JUSTIN THOMAS: Yeah, it was a decent day. I got off to a good start and I felt like I could have finished the round a lot better those last five holes or so, but overall, good day to start. Yeah, I feel like I played a lot better than my score showed, but again, just a good start to the week.

Q. Can you talk about your decision to chip on the green there?

JUSTIN THOMAS: Yeah, it was just a really weird spot. I felt like putting it, I had to be really perfect to get it close to the hole or around the hole. You know, I had in mind putting it the whole time, but once I thought about chipping it, I was going to take all the slope out of it. And chipping it, having a little bit of cut spin on there, it was going to stop a lot better. So I just felt like in terms of making a three, that was going to be my best chance.

Q. As a past champ, how does it feel to be back in Korea?

JUSTIN THOMAS: It feels great. Anytime you're at a place that you've won, it's always good vibes and good memories. You know, the hope is just to try to create some more of that this week.