

SAHITH THEEGALA ( -13)

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**Q. Sahith, what an impressive round, 15 greens and 115 feet in putts. Tell me about the day.**

**SAHITH THEEGALA:** Yeah, the last couple days I really didn't hit it too well, but I grinded it out. I was pretty proud of myself how I holed some good putts. But today I worked on a few things on the range and I just hit it really well.

I think a big key out here is driving it well, and I drove it well. Even though I didn't hit a lot of fairways, I was just off the fairways, a lot of intermediate cuts, so I left myself in a lot of good positions and I was able to hole some putts because the greens are so pure.

**Q. What are some of the swing thoughts that you took from the range to the first tee with you that helped you?**

**SAHITH THEEGALA:** Yeah, one thing was just my rhythm. I was just getting way too quick and because of that I was just starting everything left of my target, which is not a usual miss for me at all. One of the swing thoughts was just to keep my rhythm in check, just slow down just a little bit, just a tick and that really helped me find the slot most of the day.

**Q. I was really impressed that you were able to sprint through the finish line, birdies on three of your last four holes.**

**SAHITH THEEGALA:** Yeah, no, that was great. The birdie on 15 was definitely a bonus. I hit a good shot right into the slope there. It was a tough pin up on top and just so happened -- I hit a good putt and it just happened to go in. That's one that obviously you can't expect to make.

But I knew 16 and 18, if I hit good drives on there, absolutely birdie holes because the fairways are starting to firm up, too. I had 4-iron and 2-iron into 18 and 16, whereas normally I feel like I would have 3-wood in. Yeah, I was happy to -- especially the up-and-down on 18, that was big.

**Q. If the fairways are firm and the ball's running out more, that also makes them a little more narrow because the ball can easily just as well run into the rough.**

**SAHITH THEEGALA:** Absolutely, yeah. The fairways out here are pretty narrow, so it definitely makes it a little bit harder to hit the fairways. Actually hit last couple days different from the first day, I hit a lot more 2-irons off the tee, too, just because it's rolling out so much, that I'm still hitting my 2-iron 260, 265, 270. I think I'll do the same thing tomorrow.

**Q. What did you find you mentioned on the range? Take me through that range session.**

**SAHITH THEEGALA:** Yeah, so yesterday after my round I really hit it pretty poorly, but I was pumped I was able to make a couple birdies just to make the cut there. Me and my caddie, Aaron, went to the range and were like, just got to figure it out, just something to hold onto for tomorrow.

Got to the range and the first couple were still terrible and I realized I just felt a little bit too quick. I kind of figured it out on the course, but I didn't want to mess with it too much right away there. The next 15, 20 balls I hit were really good and it was just slowing down just a little bit there. I carried that on to this morning on the range and it was probably my best range session of the week. Then obviously carried it onto the course pretty well.

**Q. Is there anything you found with the putter, because Fred mentioned you holed a bucket-load?**

**SAHITH THEEGALA:** Yeah, so actually the first couple days I putted pretty solid, too. I don't think I missed a short putt really except maybe one, but I was rolling it well. A lot of my misses were just over the edges, so I felt really good on these greens.

Yeah, I didn't really change much of anything. I'm actually going with two different grips this week. A lot of the shorter putts I'm going cross-handed, a lot of longer putts I'm going conventional, which I've putted most of my life. I think going conventional for the longer putts has helped my speed out and then the cross-handed for the shorter ones just helped me start online. And again, the greens are so pure that you really don't have to hit it very hard for the shorter putts, so it worked out pretty well.

**Q. Have you done that before?**

**SAHITH THEEGALA:** Yeah, I've done that for a while. I've just always been a feel putter, so kind of switch it up, whatever feels good.

**Q. How about just this transition of turning pro, what have you learned so far?**

**SAHITH THEEGALA:** Yeah, I've learned a lot. I mean, just the first three tournaments I played in the summer, I played fine. Missed the cut in all three of them, but it was such a good learning experience. I was just really excited and a little bit nervous the first couple, but I was just so excited like I'm out here with guys that I grew up watching, all of a sudden I'm competing against them.

The last couple weeks, Barracuda and here, I've felt so comfortable. I'm just out there playing golf as I know it and I think just having that mindset's definitely helped a lot.

**Q. Did you do anything last night to celebrate making the cut?**

**SAHITH THEEGALA:** Not really. Obviously I got a bunch of congratulatory messages and stuff, but I just did my normal thing. I was telling my dad like I'm pumped to make the cut, but ultimately I'm playing the event because you want to compete, right, be near the top of the leaderboard at the end of the week. I was saying like I'm just going to go out there tomorrow and have as much fun as I can and hopefully that means making a lot of birdies. Yeah, just happened to work out.

**Q. You mentioned your caddie earlier. What's the relationship you guys have?**

**SAHITH THEEGALA:** Yeah, I actually came up here two weeks ago just to play a couple times and that's when I met Aaron. I knew of him because he plays professional golf, too. He played up in Canada the last couple years, I think, and he was going to go play there again this year, but obviously the season got canceled.

Yeah, I played with him the second round I was up here and he was great. This is his home course, he lives pretty close by, so he knows the course really well and he's just a really cool guy and he's been great on the bag for me this week.

**Q. What's his last name?**

**SAHITH THEEGALA:** Aaron Beverly.

**Q. What have you learned from your first three starts to now? What's the turning point for you?**

**SAHITH THEEGALA:** One of the things is just feeling comfortable. I was just too excited, too nervous, like I was just ready to get it going. But everything's a transition, everything's a process, so keeping that in mind.

And also not wearing myself out. The first couple weeks I was like, wow, I have these awesome facilities. I got here on Sunday and just kind of grinded myself out the first three days before I even get to the tournament. So like this week I drove up Monday afternoon and just practiced Tuesday and Wednesday and that's kind of what I'm going to be going with, I think, moving on.

Yeah, that and also something that I learned is that it's a fine line out here. It's not a big difference from just missing the cut by a couple and kind of being in the middle of the pack of the guys that make the cut. It's just so much more bunched up than amateur golf and college, so that's another thing. Like don't be discouraged at the bottom of the pack or something like that. It's a fine line from having it, just finding -- you know, one or two putts can make the difference, honestly. So that, too.

**Q. Have you learned anything from your contemporaries, any guys out here give you**

**any advice or anything?**

**SAHITH THEEGALA:** Yeah, it's funny, a couple guys just talked to me about their body. That's the biggest thing, how much they take care of their body. That's definitely something I need to work on here. Haven't worked out in a little while, so I definitely need to take better care of my body, especially if I want to have a long career. I was surprised how much these guys talked about that. That was kind of the main thing I got out of it. Obviously they were telling me about the fairways and all the stuff that's kind of general knowledge, but the body thing definitely stuck out to me.

**Q. Were some of the guys you mentioned just being out at the tournament --**

**SAHITH THEEGALA:** Yeah.

**Q. -- used to seeing them on TV?**

**SAHITH THEEGALA:** Yeah, the first one obviously was at Travelers. I mean, I saw Rory, DJ, all those kind of guys, top of the world ranking and top of the FedEx. Even just any guy out here, it's like, wow, I'm actually playing in a PGA TOUR event with the best in the world, right? It's not even just like specific guys necessarily that got me kind of excited and nervous, it was just kind of the general feeling of being there.

**Q. Was there -- kind of what was the best shot you made or was there a moment in the round that kind of keyed you to playing so well today?**

**SAHITH THEEGALA:** Yeah, I'm not sure there was a specific moment. I kind of just had the momentum going the whole day. I think the up-and-down on 5 actually was pretty big because I was in the middle of the fairway, but I was kind of blocked out by some trees there. I tried to hit it short right of the bunker on the right to leave myself an easy pitch and I just nuked it right into the bunker. So it was a pretty tough long bunker shot and I hit a pretty good shot to eight feet or so and I was able to make that. I think that was big because 5's a pretty easy hole and you definitely don't want to walk away from there with a par and that kind of got me rolling, kind of got me settled down a little bit.