

ROUND 3 INTERVIEW
November 12, 2022



JUSTIN ROSE

Q. Justin, how good is that score considering the conditions today?

JUSTIN ROSE: Yeah, it was a good day's work. Obviously I felt like it started very early this morning, it was another 4:30 alarm call, but really cold. Obviously huge change in conditions from yesterday, but kind of settled into it, especially this afternoon. I think having experienced it this morning when it was super, super cold, as soon as the sun came out you kind of thought, well, it's actually not too bad now. But yeah, that north wind kind of made the golf course play completely differently. But yeah, today I hit a few more quality shots, which is exactly what you needed to do today.

Q. What was your biggest focus coming into today not just the -- obviously the third round, but finishing up your second round as well?

JUSTIN ROSE: Yeah, I mean the second round was about I felt like making no mistakes, trying to get it in the clubhouse. I mean, 15's a tough little hole, 16 because the wind was completely opposite to the day before, I was just trying to find my bearings really. So just kind of try to not drop any shots this morning, that was kind of how I felt, felt like survival mode. Then I was kind of excited about the pairing today playing with Aaron and Scotty out there. Had some nice crowd following us. I feel like I've had some time off so it's the first time I've played in front of some people and some good energy for a while, so yeah, fed off that and it was nice to kind of knock a good score in.

Q. Justin, a lot of the golfers are kind of taking a little break this time of year. You can be pretty selective what tournaments you want to play in. Why did you decide to play this week in Houston?

JUSTIN ROSE: Yeah, I feel like I need to get my toe down on the accelerator a little bit. It's been not the greatest year and obviously 2022-23 season's up and running and it's time to kind of make some points and get amongst it. Last couple seasons I've been on the fringes looking from the outside in at the FedExCup a little bit, so that's not a position I want to continue to put myself in.

Yeah, at the end of the day you need to get out here and play some tournaments and make some points. Also, coming off the back of I don't want to call it an injury, but just a little bit of back pain in the middle of this year, I kind of felt like -- well, I did, I took six or seven weeks off. So I needed to come out and at least know I am with my body, first and foremost, and I'm feeling good, which is great. And then kind of start to get some form going and get some info really on what I need to work on in the offseason in December.



Q. What day did you arrive in Houston?

JUSTIN ROSE: Sunday night. I played in Mexico last week and then Sunday night we arrived into Houston.

Q. Were you part of the one million people for the downtown parade for the Astros?

JUSTIN ROSE: I think I just missed that, unfortunately. No, congrats. It's been obviously good energy this week with the excitement around the World Series.

Q. Justin, if you were Tony today, obviously looks like he's playing very cautiously, but that kind of a lead with these kind of conditions, can you address his strategy?

JUSTIN ROSE: Who, Tony?

Q. Yeah, and would you be doing the same thing?

JUSTIN ROSE: Yeah, listen, I've got no -- today's survival mode as well, you know what I mean? This golf course, it's tough enough and certainly around the greens it can get pretty gnarly, so you don't want to put yourself under pressure with the short game whatsoever this week. So if he's just knocking in the middle of the green, that's exactly what he needs to do. There have been some decent scores today, but at the same time, I mean, yeah, I think he's doing exactly the right thing. I haven't followed -- I mean, I think --

Q. He's had one birdie, I think.

JUSTIN ROSE: Yeah. Well, listen, this is the first time he's had to face the -- obviously the few guys who played this morning, they got a few holes under their belt. He would have come in playing yesterday morning, he's had a fairly easy two days weather-wise and now today would have been a shock to the system, so to speak, with a different wind. So he's probably just finding his feet with the strategy and the golf course. You know, you could say 14 under par's probably (inaudible,) so the strategy he's employing is probably going to be the right one. Yeah, it was nice from my point of view today where I'm in touch where a great round of golf tomorrow at least asks the question.

Q. The conditions today really favored a guy with a big lead, though, wouldn't you say, because it was real hard to --

JUSTIN ROSE: I disagree. I feel like when it is like this, you need to be on point with your game. Very easy to make a few bogeys. Guys are always going to play well no matter what the weather, but I would say lot easier to make mistakes today. When it's pretty calm, you're going to fall into some birdies I feel like versus today you have to go out and earn them. So I think -- I'm excited about tomorrow if it does favor a little bit of a tougher day again. Those are the days you want to track down a leader. I remember playing back in 2017 or 2018, DJ had a six-shot lead at the World Golf Championship, but it was a windy day, I went out and



shot 5 under and was able to catch him because those are the tough days to keep it together.

Q. The conditions you grew up playing in, it's kind of impressive that you find this to be cold and windy.

JUSTIN ROSE: That's why I moved. I've gotten soft in my old age, yeah.

Q. How many strokes does somebody, do you think, have to be in to have a shot at winning for tomorrow?

JUSTIN ROSE: Listen, it's all in Tony's hands. You can see everybody stacking up behind him, 9 under, 8 under, 7 under, 6 under. If Tony doesn't have a great day tomorrow, there's 20 guys that can win the tournament. If Tony goes ahead and plays well tomorrow, there's one or two guys that can go out and probably have a great round of golf to sort of ask the question and put some pressure on him. But yeah, it's very much in his hands from that point of view, how many guys have an opportunity tomorrow.

