

ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTE
July 27, 2023

JUSTIN THOMAS (-2)



Q. Hot one out there. How did you manage the conditions and just play out there today?

JUSTIN THOMAS: Yeah, I played really well. I think everybody that played this afternoon was pretty shocked with that wind. I think it was supposed to be somewhere in the kind of 8 to 10 range, but that was wild. It was not only blowing hard, but it was blowing in different directions.

I mean, Joel hit 3-wood into 11 today, like it was tough out there. It's obviously a bummer considering what we were supposed to have or what the guys in the morning played in. If I play like I did today, you know, the greens will be better, I won't have to putt in all that wind. I feel like I can shoot a really good one tomorrow morning.

Q. Noticed a new putter in the bag. Can you kind of take us through what was the change was and (indiscernible)?

JUSTIN THOMAS: It's a counterbalance. I used a counterbalance my rookie year for a little bit and I putted really, really solid with it in that kind of short range, it was just the speed with the longer ones. And in practice it was great, my speed was great.

I think I just probably put a little bit too much pressure on myself to make some putts early. And I stayed patient, I holed some, obviously left plenty out there. But I holed some really nice ones there on the back nine to salvage a decent round in some tough conditions. And yeah, it was good.

Q. We've seen Rickie, Keegan, Wyndham go to the counterbalance putter in recent months and have some success with it. Any of kind of their success maybe play in to making the change to that specific style?

JUSTIN THOMAS: Yeah, I guess it's the hot thing right now. I've always said, I mean, I'll putt with a shoe if it means I'll make everything, as long as it's a Scotty Cameron shoe. It's something I feel comfortable with. Obviously to go back and forth just because of where we're at in the season, but at the end of the day I'm obviously going to play with what I feel like is going to give me the best chance for success and good play, and that's what I did and I still have faith in it.

Q. Can you address your iron play today? Right off the bat you were sticking it close just about every hole. Do you feel comfortable out of the fairway?



JUSTIN THOMAS: Yeah, tee to green I played great. I drove the ball beautifully. I'd say the hardest part, honestly, the ball's just going so far. I mean, it's obviously so hot, we're at a little bit of altitude, it was windy. It was really hard to hit close to the hole today. I felt like it was, as soft as the greens were, it was doable to hit to 15, 20 feet a lot, but it was hard to hit four, five, six feet. But I definitely hit some wedges I would like to have back, but I hit a lot of really quality wedges, a lot of really quality iron shots. Like I said at the beginning, I did a lot of great things.

Q. At what point in the round did the wind really start to pick up?

JUSTIN THOMAS: One.

Q. Right away?

JUSTIN THOMAS: Literally, yeah. I mean, yeah, I probably hit a 360 or 370-yard drive on 2. I mean, it just was, it was wild. I just was not expecting it. And the ball, the crosswinds was moving it so, just a lot. Once the ball would get up into the air, especially if you hit it solid, it would really, really move it. So you had to have control of your ball and I was fortunate that I did.

Q. You mentioned your confidence out there, kind of everything you've been battling and the reason you're here. Are you kind of glad you have a short turnaround for tomorrow because of how you played today?

JUSTIN THOMAS: If I feel like I do right now, no. I'm pretty tired, my feet hurt.

It was weird. The only good thing about the wind is it kept the temperature down for the first nine or 10 holes. I don't know, something about those last like seven or eight holes it seemed like it got about 15 degrees warmer. It just felt like a blow dryer was kind of getting blown on you. Especially with how I feel like I played today, just go home and just lay in a nice bath for a little bit, get some dinner, wake up early and do it again tomorrow.

Q. Justin, you told me earlier this week you want to get back to having some fun out there, enjoying the golf a little bit. How well were you able to do that today?

JUSTIN THOMAS: I felt like I did a good job. The conditions really tried to not make me have some fun there for a little bit, but I just embraced it. I'm disappointed with how I played the par 5s, I feel like those should be three, definitely two easy birdies, and I played them well enough to do so, and I didn't. I just stayed patient. I mean, I think you don't make putts like I did on 9 or those putts like I did on 14, the shots on 15, the part putt on 16, up-and-down on 17, like you don't do that stuff if you're not in the right frame of mind and kind of enjoying the conditions and I feel like I did.

Q. What will you work on ahead of tomorrow's round?



JUSTIN THOMAS: Sleep. I mean, I just told Bones, I'm like I really don't want to go down there. I'd love to just go do a little bit, but this is my third week of hopefully a lot in a row. It's very, very hot. Being rested and having enough energy is more important than anything I'm going to figure out down there.

Q. (Inaudible) other guys in your group were going long, kind of sailing the green. Is that kind of a testament to the wind and how difficult it was to gauge on certain holes?

JUSTIN THOMAS: Yes, but it also was just, I just can't put into words how far the ball was going. It was just wild. I mean, we had the wind quartering down off the left on 8 and Gary just hit kind of a smooth 8-iron. I don't know exactly how far he hits it, I'd say in the low 170s. We had 184 hole and he flew the green. I mean, he flew it 205, 200 yards.

When you get a little bit, just a little bit of altitude like this and it gets this hot, it's just, it goes. It goes really, really far. I guess I just did a decent job of judging it.

