

JUSTIN THOMAS (-5)

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**Q. A 5-under round after kind of the even par start, kind of what worked better for you today to shoot that number?**

**JUSTIN THOMAS:** I played -- man, I played really, really well today. I was super patient, felt like I -- I just hung in there. I keep believing good stuff's going to happen and it just hasn't really. I mean, like I said at the beginning of the week, I feel like I'm very close to playing some unbelievable golf, some great golf. It was nice to have a good day today to put ourselves in a good spot going into the weekend and see what we can do.

**Q. I want to ask about 8, just kind of the rules situation kind of. Can you take us through from your perspective what was going on on that hole?**

**JUSTIN THOMAS:** Yeah. Adam and I both hit bad tee shots there. We hooked the crap out of them, so they were moving a lot. It's so hard to figure out, you know, exactly where it crossed in a situation like that. They were both very similar shots, they were just different clubs.

I think we kind of both guessed when we first got there and then after, you know, taking the line of sight and going back and realizing it wasn't in the fairway, we felt like we needed to look at it a little bit more, because being able to put it in the fairway and get your hands on the ball was a big deal versus being in the first cut.

We were both very comfortable that it was behind where it was, but optically that doesn't look great, especially with, I mean, there were three, four, five cameras right there on us.

You know, I think drops get abused a decent bit and we're not those guys, but we just wanted to -- we needed to make sure that it was done correctly because that's not -- that wasn't in the nature of it, we just wanted to make sure all was OK.

**Q. On a positive note, 16, the chip-in, obviously the ball kind of rolls down from the green there and you get the chip to go. How much momentum does that give you and just a relief there to chip that in?**

**JUSTIN THOMAS:** It was great. I told Bones, we kind of high-fived there, I said I feel like I deserve that. I mean, I didn't hit the best 9-iron I've ever hit, but it landed about 12 feet from the hole and didn't even think about staying on the green. It's a nasty hole location.

We were talking today, I mean, these are some of the fastest greens I can remember putting on. They're so severe, and when you're downhill, the ball just, it seems like it doesn't stop



rolling.

You know, you're trying to be precise and not get it too far above the hole and leave it in a spot. Just barely thinned it. Yeah, it was about a yard from being an 8-, 10-footer, but it rolled right where I needed it to. So that was nice to get one there.

**Q. What was the role of Shane in the ruling?**

**JUSTIN THOMAS:** What was the role of --

**Q. Shane.**

**JUSTIN THOMAS:** We both -- again, it just wouldn't have looked great if both of us were like, hey, it crossed here. We felt good about it, and the rules official came in and he can't really say much. He wasn't there, didn't see it.

I think the defining, or at least for us when we stood where it crossed and looked at the tee or stood where our balls were, it was a very straight line or pretty straight line and our tee shots were far from straight.

So I think Shane was the only other person -- same with our caddies, our caddies felt like it was in a different spot. But again, just optically, we didn't really think that was the necessary thing to do.

So bringing Shane in there, feel like a nonbiased, you know, someone that wasn't involved in that drop, it was just good to get his opinion on it because he was back there on the tee with us and saw. He said it wasn't even close to where we had it. It was nice of him to do that because he didn't need to.

**Q. How badly did you need to make this cut?**

**JUSTIN THOMAS:** Literally, very badly, I mean, if I wanted any chance at what I want to do the rest of the year. You know, it is what it is. I was going to give it the best I had and shoot as low as I could whether that was 65 or 75 today. Fortunately for me it was a 65. I'm just going to go do the best I can and just give it everything I have this weekend because don't have much to lose.

**Q. I hear grandma's out there watching?**

**JUSTIN THOMAS:** Yeah.

**Q. When's the last time she's come out?**

**JUSTIN THOMAS:** Charlotte. She was at Charlotte this year and then she was at the Presidents Cup. She lives in Charlotte now. When I committed and was playing here, she



was excited because I think some of my family's here as well. I'll see her up in the clubhouse. Yeah, she somehow finagled a ride all day, so I'm happy to see that because I didn't get a scooter for her like I have at some past events.

**Q. You've had some kind of bigger numbers at 3M, you let a couple holes get away from you. On 8, to just walk away with only a bogey, is that kind of one of those moments where you don't let that snowball?**

**JUSTIN THOMAS:** Not really. Just given that situation, I mean, it was -- it was definitely a very similar situation. It was one of those swings that's like, what are you doing? That's such a bad shot to hit in there. I mean, I could pull it 20 yards left of where I was looking and it still would be probably in the fairway let alone not in the hazard. Same with if I push it. Just kind of got lazy and made a bad swing. I still had a great opportunity to make par. I only had 125 yards in.

But yes, that is kind of the swings that have been biting me right in the butt.

