

ROUND 2 QUICK QUOTES
September 15, 2023

SAHITH THEEGALA (-12)



Q. Kind of some opening comments about how the round went out there for you today?

SAHITH THEEGALA: Yeah, it was a really solid round. Still not used to the new routing of the course, so I just -- the back nine now's definitely the very scorable nine. So starting on the back today, I think it's kind of nice, you kind of ease into the round versus starting on 1, a couple hard holes right out the gate.

So I was able to get off to a good start, birdied all the par 5s and just kept it rolling from there. I made a couple of momentum putts on early, on 3 was probably the biggest one. Yeah, it was a great round. It was one of those rounds where I just felt like I needed to give myself chances and if I did, I had a good chance of making it.

Q. A little wild off the tee in some of the spots. When you come out and still shoot 8 under, does that kind of feel like a bonus that you're able to scratch that out?

SAHITH THEEGALA: For sure. I think I've said a lot the last couple years, if I could just get my tee shots in play and get the driver under control, I feel pretty good about the rest of my game. I did not do that today.

I got really fortunate, I got a couple really nice breaks, specifically on 4 and 6. I had really nice lies in the rough, or nice lie in the rough on 4, able to hit that on the green. I had like a perfect little alley through the trees on 6 and knocked that close. Definitely a bonus when those drives probably should result in some sort of tough par look, but I had two good birdie looks there.

Yeah, it's nice because I feel like if I'm hitting fairways like I did on the last hole on 9, it's kind of a bonus and I feel like the rest of my game feels really good. If I can just keep -- there's no chance I hit 50 percent of my fairways the last two days, but if I can just try and go above that number, I think I'll be happy.

Q. Why are you playing this week?

SAHITH THEEGALA: Yeah, that's a -- actually, I don't think that's a great question.

Q. Is it a decent question?

SAHITH THEEGALA: I'll put it in a lower tier.



I love California events and west coast swings. I love poa annua. I love this golf course. This was one of my first sponsor invites I got, and one of my best friends lives in Napa. It's just a great event for all my family and friends to come out to.

I guess more importantly, I just really like the golf course. It's just good vibes. It's still a PGA TOUR event with all the perks, and these guys are so good. And to me, honestly, it doesn't feel too much different -- I understand a lot of guys are not playing with the new structure, which is great. Having the opportunity to kind of take off that fall being the top-50 is really nice. But yeah, I'm taking it -- I'm just going to play three events in the fall.

Yeah, you know, it's tough. I'm such an addict, it's tough for me to sit around and do nothing, too. I felt like three weeks was ample break. I was fired up missing East Lake by one, so just kind of wanted to play a tournament ASAP.

Q. How did you spend those three weeks?

SAHITH THEEGALA: I spent probably a week and a half not touching a golf club. Then I actually put in new irons for the first time in a really, really long time. Actually practiced the last four or five days, which is more than I thought I'd do. I thought I'd just come here with no practice and start on Monday.

Yeah, just chilled back in Houston. Came to SoCal a little early to hang with my parents. It's my dad's birthday and we haven't gotten to just hang in a bit, so that was fun.

Q. Fresh set of irons or a new line?

SAHITH THEEGALA: New line of irons. I'm playing the Blueprint Ss. Yeah, the Blueprint Ss. I've played my combo set of iBlades and Blueprints for seven years probably now, seven or eight years maybe even. But these irons felt incredible just off the get-go. They feel just like my other irons. If anything, a little better, so that's why I decided to make the switch. And I usually don't switch, but they feel really good and it's nice to have some validation right off the bat.

Q. You mentioned you can't stay away sometimes?

SAHITH THEEGALA: Yeah.

Q. These three events, is it more about maintaining some competitive reps --

SAHITH THEEGALA: Yeah.

Q. -- or is it more of an easier -- not easier, but a looser opportunity to chase that win that you're looking for?

SAHITH THEEGALA: Yeah, I would say just kind of keeping the competitive juices flowing.

My whole life I really haven't gone that long without playing a tournament other than the injury I had and I never wanted to make months off.

I definitely say more to keep the competitive juices flowing. I understand I'm in a great position for this year getting in the signature events and stuff. I really don't see it as a -- I think coming into a tournament, especially in my position never having won and I really haven't been in contention that much this year, I don't even look at it as like a weaker field or anything because I think if you let your guard down even a little bit, these guys are just really, really good. Sometimes I feel like it gets lost how good a guy who finished 90th on the FedExCup is. It's an important kind of stretch for those guys. I think the level of golf is going to be very similar.

Yeah, I'd say more, in just kind of looking at it, keep my competitiveness.

Q. How good was the putting today?

SAHITH THEEGALA: It was very good. Actually, I think I've -- some stat person could probably pull it up, the sponsor invite in 2020 was probably the best putting tournament in my life and on Tour, I gained like 12 shots on the greens. I've never hit it well off the tee here, but I've always putting great out there. I think the reason for that is just the poa. I love poa. I love like the crusty little five-footers, it kind of makes me lock in a little more maybe. It's just a familiar feel.

I putted very well. I had one bonus one on 2, I think I made like a 45-footer. But everything else, I don't think I made a putt outside of 15 feet other than that. It's just been a lot of really, really good rolls that have luckily held their line.

Q. You mentioned that in the past when you came here, it was your first tournament, there was pressure for you to kind of start the season off and now you're a lot more loose. How did that translate for you having that -- translate for you on the course?

SAHITH THEEGALA: Yeah, it honestly wasn't even on the course, which funny enough it was kind of leading up into the tournament. I think the last couple years I was super nervous Monday through Wednesday, but this Monday through Wednesday I was really relaxed and kind of just felt like another tournament, another tournament of the year, which it is.

But on the course I always kind of try and get into the zone or mindset of playing tournament golf. Tournament golf's kind of all the same to me. I understand like there's events that mean more and are bigger, but I think you can ask any player out here, once it comes game time, your mentality's no different.

But I will say the reps leading up to the event were definitely more relaxed, definitely don't feel stressed to kind of start off the year well. Yeah, I think it's definitely translated a little bit.