

ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTES
September 14, 2023

JUSTIN THOMAS (-3)



Q. Justin, if you'll just assess your round for us today, please.

JUSTIN THOMAS: I thought I managed it very well. I didn't, didn't hit particularly well, especially the front nine, but kind of kept searching, kept fighting, kept fighting. I felt like I was close, and some of those drives I was just missing left. I was managing my game well. I felt that's exactly what I did at the Wyndham. Today wasn't a day with how I hit it I was going to shoot 6 or 7 under. I just needed to make sure that I managed a decent score, and 3 under with how I feel like I hit it is a great thing.

Q. Are these the types of rounds maybe you're managing and it was 1, 2 over a couple months ago?

JUSTIN THOMAS: It could have been, for sure. I feel like I'm in a great head space, at least I was today. I just was very patient. I was very pleased and happy with how quickly I felt I got into it and focused. I think sometimes after some time off it's hard for me to get back into it, but I didn't feel very competitively rusty. I just, I enjoyed it and I was very engaged and focused on what I was doing, I just wasn't exactly doing it how I wanted to. But I still stayed positive and just kept doing the best I could.

Q. Did you end up going with the longer driver or the gamer driver?

JUSTIN THOMAS: The gamer driver, yeah. Go to the range and hit a couple.

Q. What's the difference in that head space now versus a couple months ago?

JUSTIN THOMAS: It's quite a bit different. I'm just -- I mean, it's very similar I feel like to how it was at Wyndham. I feel like at the Wyndham and even 3M I was in a great head space. I don't know what it was, I just am -- when I'm able to accept things that are going on, I mean, I'm a fiery, emotional person. I'm going to -- I'm going to be pissed off that I hit it way left of the fairway on 18 and I missed the fairway with the layup, but it's just not letting it affect the next shot and the next shot. I think that's what I did early, middle of last season or even most of the end of the season that ended up hurting me versus these last couple rounds, tournament rounds I've played, I've stayed in it and really just kind of grinded out the best that I could.

Q. You referred to earlier with the layoff, was there any effect at all early, could you tell at all or (inaudible)?

JUSTIN THOMAS: It was better than I thought. I wasn't sure. That was something -- a big

kind of goal I had today was try to step on that first tee and hit that first shot like I've been playing for months, and haven't really taken any time off competitively. I felt like I did that and yeah, so that was a good thing, for sure.