

ROUND 2 QUOTES
January 25, 2024



THOMAS DETRY (-10)

Q. Thomas, another solid round for yourself, put yourself right in contention heading into the final two days. Just kind of take us through what went well for you today.

THOMAS DETRY: I'd say on the greens I made just 120 feet of putts, which was pretty nice. Started the round with a bogey on the second hole, missed a three-footer so thought it would be a long day on the greens but turned it around nicely, made some great putts. I felt like I had the speed today all day. Obviously first off so the greens were running great as well, definitely an advantage.

But very pleased. I've known this course now for a couple of years. I played the U.S. Open here and I played last year so I feel like I know where not to miss it. Greens are obviously soft with all the rain that we've had which allows you to leave yourself easy up-and-downs where if the greens were firm, it would have been a bit trickier.

Q. Some guys don't mind poa greens, some guys hate 'em. Where do you kind of net out? You played well today.

THOMAS DETRY: It's hit or miss for me as well. Some guys hate it. I've hated it in the past, I've loved it in the past. It's just, it's not straight math, golf is not science unfortunately. Some days you've got it, some days you don't. But they seem to be rolling pretty nicely, my pace is great, I'm striking it well off the face with the putter head so not much wrong can happen.

Q. Plenty of experience for you on the DP World Tour but last year was your first kind of rookie season out on the PGA TOUR. What do you feel like you learned about yourself over this last year kind of in the States that you can now apply to this year?

THOMAS DETRY: I got off to a great start last year on PGA TOUR. I feel like I'm familiar out here. I've been to college here so I love it. I love being in the U.S.

But last year I think I got caught up trying to play a little bit too much. With scheduling, with obviously the change in format, the top-50, so trying to chase that a little bit towards the end I think which obviously got into my head. This year I think I'm pretty committed to keeping a pretty strict schedule and committing to the weeks that I'm trying to play and trying to peak at the right time.

Q. Is it helpful to come to these courses now a second time? You played the U.S. Open here so you've been here a couple times, but now as you set off on a second year coming back to places you know instead of having to relearn golf courses?



THOMAS DETRY: Massive, especially the west coast. I think we played three courses last week, two courses this week and Pebble used to be three courses. So if you've never been to all these places, suddenly you're playing eight courses in the span of three weeks and it's a lot of practice rounds.

So definitely feel a little bit nicer to get here knowing the courses. I only played nine holes on the South, nine holes on the North, so I didn't feel like I had to rush. Even though it was rained out on Monday, I didn't feel like I had to rush that. So it's definitely much nicer being able to not rush and knowing the course definitely.

Q. And just those signature events, trying to get in and qualify for those, are you playing much attention to where you're at, what you're doing?

THOMAS DETRY: Not at all. Luckily I'm into Pebble next week so I'm very excited for that. It's a great event as well, I played it last year so looking forward to that.

But not really, I'm not really paying attention to any of it. I feel like that's what I got caught up last year doing, so I'm just going to try to play like I did the last two days and hope it will definitely take care of things.

Q. A lot of success on the par 5s today, you birdied three of the four. What was the key for you there today?

THOMAS DETRY: On the par 5s, what were the key? A bit of a mixed bag, I played 13 really, really nicely, hit a great drive, amazing 3-wood, left myself in the right spot in the bunker.

Hole 9 I made a giant putt. I'd say I drove it really well. Hole No. 6 I drove it well. I hit a great 4-iron to the middle of the green, lagged it up there very nicely.

So it was definitely some good driving, which you have to do because the rough is up here, so if you don't hit the fairways you'll be screwed. Luckily I managed to make a great putt on 9 which made up for that. Yeah, you want to hit fairways definitely.

Q. And you mentioned you went to college in the States at Illinois. Another Illinois alum here, also another Belgium, Adrien Dumont de Chassart. Have you two had the chance to connect at all this week?

THOMAS DETRY: Yeah, we know each other pretty well. Our parents know each other very well. Obviously he went to Illinois as well. We see each other a bit, but it's been a bit of a rushed last couple weeks, three different courses last week and two this week, it got rained out obviously on Monday. So we haven't really had proper time to chill together, but we'll have plenty of weeks ahead of us this year to do that.

Q. And being a college player yourself, he has got onto the Tour very quickly after his



college career ended. We saw last week an amateur win on Tour for the first time in over 30 years. What is it about the state of the college game right now that gets guys so ready for the professional ranks so quickly?

THOMAS DETRY: I think more than in any sport I think college golf is just the pathway to the PGA TOUR, I think. There's just no ways around it, it's just so strong. We see all these guys, Ludvig Aberg, Viktor Hovland a couple of years ago, Nick Dunlap, Matthew Wolff, like all these guys who were dominating out there are clearly good enough to come out here. I think it's a great test, it's a great way of knowing if your game is ready for the PGA TOUR or not when in college and you're learning so much. It's obviously competitive, the courses are great, it makes you ready for the professional life. It's definitely a must do, to go to college if you want to turn pro in my opinion.

