

ROUND 2 QUICK QUOTES
February 16, 2024



MAX HOMA (-4)

Q. Max, talk about today. A nice bounce-back for you, eight birdies, a couple of bogeys, but today was more like it, wasn't it?

MAX HOMA: Yeah, I've just been really waiting for the last few months to make a couple putts and just make things a shade easier on myself. Didn't really play a whole lot better. Hit my irons better than yesterday, but just yesterday, if you can't make anything, it makes you feel like you've got to play too perfect. Haven't really been playing good enough to offset that. So it was nice even just to make the one on 1 and just feel like it's a new day.

Q. The numbers are really amazing because yesterday you had 29 total putts and hit 34 feet of putts total, which is crazy, right, and then today 115 feet, which included like a one-footer on the last hole.

MAX HOMA: Yeah, yesterday has been the norm for the last --

Q. Really?

MAX HOMA: Yeah. So it's just been frustrating making a lot of putts inside of 10 feet the last handful of weeks and just nothing outside of it. So it was nice to make a couple and just take some stress off. Made one bad swing on 8 and then made a long putt, just haven't done that in a while.

Q. You made a nice move today, though. You're in the thick of things. You've had a lot of success before and you've got to feel good now heading into the weekend.

MAX HOMA: Yeah, if I could just drive the ball a little bit better, I like my chances. My short game feels really good, which is fun. I feel like I'm able to make pars and birdies from around the greens.

Yeah, just keep doing what I've been doing with the putter, it really does feel like it's just a matter of time for the odds to start working in my favor a little bit. That's something I'm looking forward to.

Q. We talk to you about this all the time, you're an L.A. guy, California kid, does it ever get old playing here? Is it always special, because you get such a nice greeting virtually every hole?

MAX HOMA: Yeah, no, I love it here. Even if it wasn't for the fans, which is an amazing added bonus, just getting to play this golf course is a true treat, and then to get to do it in



front of my friends and family and then a lot of people I don't know who are quite kind, it's a pleasure for me.

Q. Max, as you mentioned, kind of a lackluster start yesterday and you got off to a bit of a weird start on this hole here today where you kind of hit it over in the left rough. I'm curious about your history of winning. Have you had tournaments where you've been able to just sort of flip a switch like after one round or midway through the tournament and just get to some different level?

MAX HOMA: No, and that was actually a goal of mine, started talking about it the beginning of last week. Would like to be able to do things like play mediocre to bad the first day and not play the next day just no to sniff the cut line, to just play to get back in the golf tournament.

I thought I did that for a while today and kind of went backwards but I was happy with how I finished it. Yeah, I've seen the greats do that, they'll shoot 1, 2 over the first day and shoot something crazy low the next day. I remember Rahm did it last year at Hilton Head and that's the kind of stuff that's really impressive and I've never been able to do that, so I feel like today is hopefully a step in that direction.

Q. Are you feeling well like physically and everything?

MAX HOMA: Yeah, everything's good. It's been a long four weeks, just the grind. Not really -- just the level of golf has been so frustrating. Feel like I'm doing everything I possibly can and doing all the right stuff, and it's a nice breath of fresh air to have this round because I just feel I'm doing everything right. And swing hasn't felt amazing but doesn't feel terrible and the putter feels great and nothing had gone in. So I think today I might sleep a little bit better tonight knowing that some of my work's playing off.

Q. A little bit leading question, Max, apologizing in advance for that, but with the Open coming here in '31, I'm just curious how much work needs to be done to get this ready and what could they do to screw it up.

MAX HOMA: They could only screw it up I think in my opinion.

I think what's interesting this week with the rain, it's made the rough thicker. You can't go crazy with this stuff because you could ruin the golf course if you make it too thick.

But I think maybe taking a look at what it is this week, this length's quite good. You get some good lies, get some bad lies, I personally think that's how it should be. It's going to even out in the end, and yet with the greens are firm.

The beauty of kikuyu is soft just short of the green make things hard, so I think they can only mess this place up. This place is about as good as it gets.



