

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW: JUSTIN ROSE
January 27, 2017

Q. 71 today, you birdie your final hole on a very difficult golf course. How would you say you performed out there?

JUSTIN ROSE: Yeah, I'm happy with that, to be honest with you. I was going along really nicely today. I think I hit my first 10 greens in regulation, I was playing lovely. Made a great save at 11, parred the tough 12th hole, had a good birdie opportunity at 13. Things were going really well. Really felt like I could have birdied 6 and 9, the two par 5s as well. But felt like I was in control. But this golf course gets tough as you turn back into the breeze there on 14, 15, 16. It felt like, and this is probably just more just my perspective than anything, but it felt like as we turned into the wind the greens got bumpy, too. So it felt like coming in it was even hard to see pars coming in.

Hit a couple of good six-footers that hit the right edge and didn't go in and hit like a four-footer on 16 that went completely opposite way to what I thought. When the situation gets like that, you start to see not only some of the good stuff happening but some of the bad stuff happening. But it was really nice to finish the way I did on 18 because at that point, I hit 7-iron in there from like 130-something, so it was pretty hard to keep it out of the water at that point.

Q. Justin, you and I had a little giggle walking off 18, I said what a grind that was. How would you describe that round?

JUSTIN ROSE: Yeah, you were obviously out there watching it and walking it. I was in control. Had a really good start to my round. I was saying I hit the first 10 greens in regulation. Missed the 11 but made a great save. Had another chance at 13 to go to maybe 3 under for the round, so it was going really smoothly. But then you turn back into the breeze on 14, 15, and 16, crosswind at 17 and into the breeze at 18 and it felt like as you turn into the tougher holes, it felt like the greens suddenly got a little bit wobbly, too, or at least it felt that way because that's kind of when the course got tougher coming in, you were kind of faced with more six footers for par and those were tough prospects out there.

Q. No question. I thought your play, as you mentioned, right up to the 10th hole including was just flawless. That up-and-down on 11, one of the best I would imagine you had in a long time. What's it like when you find yourself playing so smooth and all of a sudden you hit an errant shot out of nowhere and you have to refind swings?

JUSTIN ROSE: Yeah, yeah, absolutely. I think it was, it was tough but I accepted that it was tough for everybody out there and I was in a good position. Fooch said something good to me going down 16, he said it's all about just being in the mix for the weekend. Everyone's played both courses now and now we get to play the bruiser for the next two days. So you just want to basically put yourself within shot. I actually think the cut mark, even par if it's

what it's going to be, is incredibly low for two days around here. Pretty much everyone who's made the cut is still in the golf tournament.

Q. Justin, just assess your round today, please.

JUSTIN ROSE: Yeah, obviously it's a tough golf course. I played really, really well. Got off to a good start today, hit my first 10 greens in regulation and had an opportunity I think on 13 to go 3 under for my round, which would be great scoring on a day like today. Played with Brandt Snedeker, who did shoot 3 under, which is a great round of golf.

But then yeah, the last five holes do play really, really tough around here. Even though 18's a par 5, the fact it plays into the wind, all you're really trying to do is not spin it in the water on your third shot. So tough coming in. Greens got a bit bouncy this afternoon as well, so as you play those tougher holes you're faced with some par putts, which aren't necessarily easy to make.

Q. Closing birdie, though, makes you feel a little bit better. Talk about the weekend and your strategy on the South Course.

JUSTIN ROSE: Yeah, obviously maybe take a 1-shot lead, but that's really not a strategy to worry about. It's a very bunched field. I think even par cut is incredibly low. Everyone who's made the cut is within eight, so it will be a lot of guys chasing. But it's a golf course you've got to stay patient on. You've just got to hit good golf shots. You can't really fake it around here so it's just about continuing to play well.

Q. A flare for the dramatic again getting it done on 18 to have yourself on top of the leaderboard just like yesterday getting it done on 9.

JUSTIN ROSE: Yeah, obviously I gave a little fist pump on that last putt. It's always a poignant way to finish and to try and stay ahead of the field is obviously a nice thing to do. I think the fact that I was kind of in between clubs in the fairway there and I was really struggling to make a decision and really executed my third shot made that really sort of a meaningful birdie for me.