



Q. Take us through the hole-in-one.

JUSTIN THOMAS: Yeah, I had 239 hole, a comfortable 6-iron for me this week, it's been going about 232, 235. I felt like it was just fractionally into the wind but we were trying to land it about six to eight paces short, just kind of before it goes down a little bit. It was a little bit into the wind so I knew it was just a good, smooth 6-iron. It was really one of the few times today I had a good number. I kept being in between a lot, so I just tried to put a confident swing on it and I just absolutely flushed it and it was cool to see the gallery go nuts up there.

Q. You always get excited being atop the leaderboard. With the names on this leaderboard, does that add to it?

JUSTIN THOMAS: Yeah, it's cool playing in the final group with DJ and Rory, that's pretty cool. That's something I haven't experienced before, playing with those guys. I've obviously played with Hideki and Rosie, I've played with a lot of great players, but it will be a new experience. You know, threesomes is a little different than in the past. I mean I guess Sony was a threesome. I've just got to go out and we've got to stick to our game plan. I was really proud of my round today because I started hitting it pretty bad again there in the middle and just kind of found it again or just was trying to manage it and brought it home strong.

Q. The fact that you hit it a little bit bad but here you are atop the leaderboard, how's that feel, how significant is that?

JUSTIN THOMAS: I'm sure I have. I've always been someone to tweak stuff. If I'm hitting it bad in the middle of the round, I'm not going to keep hitting it bad, I'm going to change something whether it's my grip or something in my swing. I've never understood how people think I'm crazy for trying to change stuff in my swing when I'm hitting it bad on the course. I have to try and find something to get around. If I could just start -- I keep missing so many fairways with irons which is driving me insane, I've just got to start -- I've got to do a little bit better with that tomorrow, give myself some more birdie opportunities. But yeah, I would say it's up there in terms of biggest change. I didn't hit it near as well today as I did yesterday, but I finished hitting it pretty well.

Q. How much more confident tomorrow than maybe a year ago now that you've got so many wins under your belt?

JUSTIN THOMAS: I have more on my resume, I have more experiences to build on or to kind of have in the memory bank because I'm out there playing, but it's a little different. I

was four back in Malaysia and I think three shots at Kapalua and Sony, and this is one so it's different. But I'm excited, I definitely would have taken it at the start of the week.

Q. Is there a shot where you felt the turnaround today?

JUSTIN THOMAS: I hit -- honestly, I hit a great drive on 10 after just a terrible 5-iron off the tee and to chip out on 9, that was a great par. Even holes like 5, 7 saving bogey, 9 saving par, those were huge for me. They were just as important as my birdies. I hit a really good drive down 10. We've been hitting iron but I felt with that back pin just kind of send it down there. Hit a great drive, hit a wedge in there and made birdie. On 11, that's an uncomfortable tee shot for me from that tee. We talked about it for a while and I just kind of went with my gut and just kind of hooked a 3-wood around there and that was big confidence builder.

Q. What do you do with the balls?

JUSTIN THOMAS: Keep them, mine's in my bag.

Q. (No microphone.)

JUSTIN THOMAS: I think he has them like in a shoe box in his office.

Q. How many holes-in-one is that?

JUSTIN THOMAS: I think 19, 20.

Q. Justin Thomas who shot 66 today to take the third-round lead. Justin, it's a wild day out there, you're leading again, playing great all year. How does it compare to how you did in Hawaii when you were winning those two tournaments to start it off?

JUSTIN THOMAS: I'm definitely not playing as well as I was in Hawaii, so I just have gotten it around well. It's not a course that you can go around as easy as the places in Hawaii. You hit some good shots that kind of can go in the trees or in the bunker, it's a tough up-and-down. So it's really just trying to stay patient and go out there and play good golf.

Q. You've had so many aces now you can't even keep track, it seems a little bit unfair, but a big one today you made and from a long distance, too. Can you describe that?

JUSTIN THOMAS: It was 239 to the hole and it just happened to just be a perfect 6-iron with the elevation here. Trying to land it about six, seven or eight short, which I think it did. It really landed hard and just popped right in the hole. It was pretty cool to see the gallery go nuts up there.

Q. Justin, extraordinary round, I mean the tournament in general?

JUSTIN THOMAS: I feel good. It's a great place. It's been really cool the crowds that have been out here this week. So to be in the last couple groups, play in front of all these people and all the fans and kids here in Mexico is awesome, so I'm excited for the challenge tomorrow.

Q. What we can expect for tomorrow because today you play so great and tomorrow you are going to be with all the focus on you?

JUSTIN THOMAS: Yeah, I just have to go out there and try to play well. I mean I felt like I turned it around pretty well for how I was playing at the beginning of the round, I was hitting some shots a little squirrely and not as good. I seemed to go out there and try to hit some good consistent shots and give myself a lot of birdie chances.

Q. Today you had the magic, you make some amazing shots. Your favorite one?

JUSTIN THOMAS: The hole-in-one definitely is up there.

Q. You expecting?

JUSTIN THOMAS: Yeah, it was really, really cool to hit a 6-iron there on 13. You don't get to make them too often let alone in competition, so it was awesome.

Q. Thank you very much, thank you for being here in Mexico.

JUSTIN THOMAS: Thanks for having us.

Q. An exciting 66, you go out in 35, even par on your opening nine, but make the turn, come back highlight by that ace on the 13th hole. In your opinion, what clicked on that back nine for you?

JUSTIN THOMAS: Just started hitting better shots. On 5 I had a great save for par there. And then on 7, that was a great save for bogey, it was just a terrible iron shot. And then 9 again, that was another great save for par. So those holes were kind of the key components for me to even have a chance to be in the hunt or to have a chance to be in the final group and leading. So I was trying to build off those and then I started hitting some good shots on the back nine.

Q. Looking ahead to tomorrow, you've got a very good record with a 54-hole lead, including your last two victories. In your opinion, what do you think makes you a great closer?

JUSTIN THOMAS: I'm not scared, I think that's one thing, but at the same time I've had great days, I've played well. Over the course of a long career you're going to have days on Sunday where you have a lead and you don't play well, it's just a matter of what you make of

it those days. I was fortunate enough in Malaysia both times to have a great Sunday and the same again at Kapalua, and Sony I had a big lead. So tomorrow will be a little different for me. I have a lot of great players chasing me, I just have to go out and make a bunch of birdies.

Q. On that note, you're going to be playing alongside Dustin Johnson and Rory McIlroy. Does that amp up maybe the focus or excitement in some ways?

JUSTIN THOMAS: It'll just be more fun probably. I mean they're two good buddies of mine and I like both their caddies, we all get along really well. So obviously it will be very, very serious and we'll be getting after it pretty good, but we'll have some good laughs I'm sure between shots.