



Q. You just keep finding a way, even when you don't have your absolute best, you're sitting there with the lead going into Sunday?

THOMAS PIETERS: Yeah, I don't know what to say. First eight holes I was in the fairway, hit good shots, made putts and the last 11 is a struggle. I just was out of position every hole. Tomorrow I've just got to figure out a way to hit fairways, that's it.

Q. Do you take confidence from the fact that even without doing it, you're sitting here in the final group?

THOMAS PIETERS: Yeah, my bad golf is getting better. That's always good. That's why you practice, I guess.

Q. Mentally though, how do you -- with all that scrambling, how hard is it to keep --

THOMAS PIETERS: It is, yeah, because the first eight holes you're flying, and then all of a sudden you need to concentrate on more shots, whereas hitting the fairway, hit it on the green and you can kind of relax for a second and take the putter. On the back nine it was just -- although I feel like I'm really close with the driver, like on 18, I missed the fairway by two yards and you're struggling. Didn't hit it close to the flag. So we'll find a way tomorrow.

Q. You talked yesterday a little bit about not being so hard on yourself. Is that a little bit trying once the driver went a little wayward today?

THOMAS PIETERS: Yeah. I mean, I was trying to be positive. It was really close to hitting good ones because I hit a really good one off the first, felt like it was a good swing. And then the second hit went way left.

But I know what I have to do to fix it, so that's the easy part.

Q. And is that again tomorrow just keeping yourself level no matter which way things are doing?

THOMAS PIETERS: Yeah, I think I've done that pretty well this week.

Q. Is there anything you can go back on with your wins over in Europe that you can take into tomorrow and hopefully help you bring home a trophy?

THOMAS PIETERS: Yes and no. I mean, it's a different tournament, it's different pressure. But the wins I've had I finished really well. I think the ones I've gotten in contention this year

I've gotten very quick, and changing direction, my backswing got a little quick. Not so much nervous but just anxious to finish and to have a good finish. Maybe tomorrow I have to get back to being calm and just let it come to me.

Q. Is there any specific moment that you feel like in the final round you have been calm like that and you can draw upon that, anything where you can recall that you performed that way?

THOMAS PIETERS: Last year in Denmark I was -- I needed the win to get on the Ryder Cup or I felt like I had to, at least, and I was playing really well and I was two back with three to go. Yeah, stayed patient and I made three birdies coming in, so that showed that if you stay patient, sometimes it will pay off.

Q. Thomas, first eight holes today, some of the best second shots I've seen on PGA Tour this year, you're all over the flag, making putts. Driver got a little looser, or your tee shots got a little looser on your second nine. Your thoughts on how it went out there today?

THOMAS PIETERS: Again, my ball striking was good, driver was not good. It's been like that for (inaudible) and I managed to score really well, so pretty happy. I mean, glad the putt went in on the last because that would have been a bogey, but in a good position for tomorrow.

Q. I was going to say the last putt, that ball was moving when it got to the hole, hit the back of the cup and dropped in, but a momentum builder for you, I would say?

THOMAS PIETERS: Yeah, I had very good putts today that didn't go in from mid range, 20-foot, and it was nice to see one go in.

Q. As you look at tomorrow, you're tied with Zach, you're going to be in the final group, you're 9 under par. As far as the club selection on the tee shots, do you try something else? How do you straighten thing out on these fairways?

THOMAS PIETERS: I'm going to go to the range, straighten it out there. It's worked. I do try to miss it in the spots that I can miss it, depending on the flag's left to right, I try to -- sometimes I know I might miss it a bit left, so I aim a bit further left. I mean, we'll see how it goes tomorrow.

Q. Exclamation point on the 18th. How would you describe this day where you struggled hitting fairways, but ultimately able to put up a good number?

THOMAS PIETERS: Same thing as the last two days. Struck the ball really well with the irons, ball striking's been really good. Off the tee not so good, but I think I'm missing it in the spots I can miss it in. All in all, not too bad. I haven't really made any long putts this week and it's nice to see that one on 18 go in.

Q. You talked earlier in the week that sometimes you can get hard on yourself, a little too tough on yourself. When you only hit 13 fairways through three days, how difficult has it been to be optimistic relative to when you're leaving the tee box?

THOMAS PIETERS: When I do hit the fairway, I get really, really happy. Sometimes I'll miss it 10 yards right of the flag and I know I'm right there with the swing, so I try to keep positive in that way. Hopefully we straighten out for next week and for tomorrow, and if I start hitting a lot of fairways I know I'm going to be shooting a lot of low scores.

Q. Big shot here in the U.S. to finally break through. What do you lean on from your past to help you in the final round?

THOMAS PIETERS: I give it my all, like I have done this year. Just not been enough, but hopefully tomorrow's going to be enough.

Q. Tell us your thoughts about today, please, Thomas.

THOMAS PIETERS: Again, ball striking was good. Off the tee was not so good. You know, I'm going to work on it again on the range now, but I do miss it in the spots I can miss it. I kind of notice, wrote it down in my book where I can miss it. I have to find more fairways tomorrow if I want to win. Maybe a bit more 3-woods or an iron off the tee. Hopefully we can straighten out the driver.

Q. I was watching you, you seem to have that look of Ryder Cup on you where you seem to be in the zone early and nothing was a distraction to you. Was that fair?

THOMAS PIETERS: I was in the fairway, it makes life easy for me. On the back nine, I wasn't, so that's why three bogeys. It started on 9. Yeah, you could say so. Every time I'm in the fairway I kind of sense that I can hit it close. It's quite soft and I'm striking the ball well, so makes it a bit stress-free for me.

Q. So you've got to do some work but when it comes tomorrow, it's what you want, isn't it, final group in a big golf tournament?

THOMAS PIETERS: Yes, that's exactly what I want. That's what you want at the beginning of the week, you just want to be in contention on Sunday afternoon, that's it.