



**JUSTIN THOMAS (-7)**

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**Q. Justin, what difference, if any, did you see between Tiger on Thursday and today?**

**JUSTIN THOMAS:** Not much. He played well on Thursday, played well today. Definitely, I mean, today obviously was better. I guess he played a little bit better today, but it was easier today, it wasn't as windy. He had three competitive rounds in, so he probably had a little bit better groove or a little bit better idea what was going on. But yeah, I mean, we both could have shot a pretty low one today.

**Q. What did you say to him after the 2-iron at 3?**

**JUSTIN THOMAS:** I didn't say anything, I just looked at him. I was like, that was pretty good.

**Q. How much do you take out of the fact that he's been very vocal about you and Rickie and the guys getting him kind of rallying him out there to play these matches and prepare for maybe Torrey when he comes back? What do you take out of that when you hear him say those things?**

**JUSTIN THOMAS:** It's cool. It's something I probably never thought or I hate to say dream, but I never thought something like that would happen. It's really cool. To play with, you know, my role model, someone I've looked up to my entire life, played twice with him this week and this last day. I mean, obviously we both were pretty disappointed in the fact that we didn't have a chance to win the tournament. Obviously we played decent today. It's definitely cool, the fact that he is willing to play as much as we do or hang out as much as we do.

**Q. Just as a follow-up, are you aware that you're kind of energizing him? Can you tell that from his demeanor besides the things he says to us?**

**JUSTIN THOMAS:** Yeah, it's definitely -- I mean, he's obviously a lot more upbeat, a lot more positive, a lot healthier than he was last year at this time. He's got a lot of energy, which for you guys I'm sure is very intriguing or very motivating I guess you could say. It's just so weird to say that you're excited for somebody else's year, but it will be a fun year and I hope we dual it out a lot this up coming year.

**Q. Justin, he said or you said he's influenced you as a player. Do you feel now in the last few months or years that he's tried to come back that you and Rickie and Rory have influenced him, and if so, in what way?**

**JUSTIN THOMAS:** That's hard to say. I mean, I think there's only one person that can answer that and it would be him. But from what it sounds in some of his interviews, it sounds like we have a little bit whether we know it or not. We're just looking at it as I want to go play golf with T-Dub and try to take some of his money and just have a good time. For me, I look at it as a learning experience, I want to learn as much as I can from him.

**Q. You and Jordan and everyone have proven yourselves in your 20s and now him obviously ready for a comeback. What does that say about where golf is right now?**

**JUSTIN THOMAS:** It says a lot. I mean, I'm sure he would be the first to tell you that he still has a lot to do in terms of getting back to where he wants to be, but he's definitely moving in the right direction. I think it will just take a couple, as he likes to say, a couple more reps in, a couple more tournaments to kind of get the juices going or get comfortable doing this and that against versus just going out and riding 18 holes as opposed to walking 72 holes and playing a tournament where every shot counts and makes a big difference. I think if he stays healthy like this, I think he'll be fine.

**Q. From what you saw in two days out there, would you say Tiger's back?**

**JUSTIN THOMAS:** I don't know. I don't know where he finished, but I'm sure he would say no since he didn't win.

**Q. Is there any dilemma between wanting Tiger Woods as part of the golfing equation and all he brings, and if he was at his best, he would be a tough guy to beat, right?**

**JUSTIN THOMAS:** Yeah, it is different because I've never played against that Tiger, and I mean I don't want that Tiger just because the sense of judging by the statistics, not many of us would have that great of a chance. But at the same time, obviously we want to be able to play against him and battle down the stretch with him. I mean, that's the person that I was making putts on the putting green when I was 6, 7, 8 years old pretending to beat. So it would be pretty fun to do it in person, but that's obviously -- we both are, I guess a lot of us, myself included have a lot to get there I guess you could say.

**Q. Do you get a better sense of Tiger's impact on golf by playing two days with him or by spending two press conferences answering nothing but Tiger questions?**

**JUSTIN THOMAS:** Probably the press conferences just because there's not very many people here. Thursday was weird, there were 40, 50 people out here and today there was a little bit more. I would say more of the fact that I just won the FedExCup, Player of the Year and all I get asked about is Tiger Woods.

**Q. Is there any sense of what it must have been like for Ernie Charlie Howell 15 years ago when this was going on?**

**JUSTIN THOMAS:** I can't imagine. I thought it was bad, the questions I got asked about

Jordan, and probably didn't even come close.

**Q. Justin, what would it mean for golf if you, Jordan, Hideki, all the good young players keep doing what you're doing and Tiger returns to a level of elite status as well?**

**JUSTIN THOMAS:** It would be -- there's probably really no words to describe it. Golf's already in, I'm biased but I would say it's maybe the best place it's been. Obviously I've only watched it for 19, 20 years, but that I could at least -- or 16, 17 years I can remember, but it's in a great place. It's hard to do the things that he did in terms of winning that many tournaments in a year with how deep the Tour is and just how many good, hungry young players there are. But it would be fun.

**Q. Would that sort of be the best of both worlds scenario?**

**JUSTIN THOMAS:** For you guys it would.

**Q. Justin, before you signed any deals when you were just turning pro, what did your closet look like? How many dress clothes did you have, how many ties?**

**JUSTIN THOMAS:** I went to an all-guys private school and I had to wear a button down and tie to school every day for four years, so I had quite a few ties and button downs.

**Q. Do you consider yourself a snappy dresser?**

**JUSTIN THOMAS:** I would definitely consider myself a good dresser.

**Q. All right, here's a question about you. Got nothing to do with Tiger. How are you going to stay hungry for next year?**

**JUSTIN THOMAS:** I'm always going to be hungry. If I won eight times this season, I'm going to want to win nine times next season. If I won two majors, I'm going to want to win three. So the thing is, I feel like it's so hard to satisfy myself, I don't know if that's necessarily a good thing but it's always going to keep me working. Being No. 1 in the world at some point in my career is such a huge accomplishment or such a huge priority to me, so that's -- I'm -- and hopefully when I do get there I'll hopefully stay there for a while if I do. But obviously I have two people that I need to get in front of at the moment.

**Q. You talked about not really having an offseason at this point. What do you do over the next few weeks before you go to Hawaii?**

**JUSTIN THOMAS:** I'll definitely -- I mean, I hate to say it, but my preparation was pretty poor coming into this week just in terms of I didn't want to play golf. I would rather be fresh and -- I mean, I was mentally -- my body felt great, mentally I was there, just I was rusty. My swing I don't like it, it's not very good, some of the positions I like, but just because I wasn't

really putting in the proper practice and preparation so I can't expect that much.

I hit a lot of really, really good shots this week. I feel like if I would have played the easy holes well, I really could have had a chance. But anyways, the next two, three weeks I'll be able to practice and kind of get my swing back where I want it. I'll obviously still be resting, I won't be practicing every day by my means, but I'll be able to get in a little bit better of a routine just because I'll actually want to practice versus the last month and a half I didn't want to.

**Q. Two shots to kick Tiger's ass, where you at now?**

**JUSTIN THOMAS:** Yeah, I'm not too happy about that.