



JUSTIN THOMAS (-11)

Q. Are you aware of your record when playing with Tiger? I think you're like 11-0-2 now, and your scoring average is like around 67. What is it about playing with T. Dub that brings out the best in you?

JUSTIN THOMAS: I don't know. I mean, it's always comfortable playing with people you know. I don't think it's -- it's not a coincidence that, you know, it's with him. I mean, I'm sure I have a great scoring average with Jordan or with Rick or other guys, too. But be sure you tell him that, though. I didn't have those exact numbers.

Q. Yeah. Switching to next week, you probably answered this, but what kind of captain do you think Tiger will be?

JUSTIN THOMAS: I already know he's going to be a great captain just for how serious he's taken it so far and how much he wants this for us. I mean, the conversation and the communication started a while ago in terms of what we're going to do, things that I can do to help, things that he feels he can do. So I think it's going to be great. But at the end of the day, you know, it doesn't matter what -- it does matter what he does, but we need to go play well.

Q. You're closer to him than most. Is it still slightly strange or different having Tiger Woods as a captain?

JUSTIN THOMAS: Yeah, I think the fact that this will be my second Presidents Cup probably not as weird as it is to others, but yeah, it's definitely pretty crazy.

Q. What's the difference in your, I guess, demeanor, nervousness the first time you ever played with Tiger to now?

JUSTIN THOMAS: Yeah, it's quite a bit different. I mean, I just played so much with him that it's -- you know, I mean, we're trying to beat each other out there. It's not like we're -- I mean, we're, to an extent, pulling for each other, but at the same time, you know, I want to bury him and he wants to bury me. I mean, that's golf. It doesn't matter who you play with. But it's just playing a lot of rounds and spending a lot of time around him, I think is kind of what eased it a little bit, but it's the same way with a lot of guys. You know, with Rick, Rory, Jordan, Phil, you know, a lot of those guys, being around them and playing with them so much, it helped with that.

Q. What do you think about his game?

JUSTIN THOMAS: His game? It's good, yeah. I mean, he's playing well. I don't think you need me to tell you that. I'm sure they've shown every shot on TV, so you can probably check it all out. He's playing well.

Q. Having taken a month off, are you pleased with how sharp you are playing if you, indeed, are playing sharp?

JUSTIN THOMAS: Yeah, I'm playing well. I've been -- I've really, really taken this offseason seriously. I did in the past, but not near as serious or I didn't prepare as well. And I feel that it's shown. I mean, I've come here and had two pretty lackluster appearances. So I just was kind of sick of coming to a tournament I feel like is statistically your best chance to win, you only have to beat 17 guys, and not even coming close to having a chance. You know, it's a course that fits my game. You've got to make a lot of birdies. And, you know, I just felt like I needed to really put in the proper work, not only for this week, but for Presidents Cup as well.

Q. (Inaudible.)

JUSTIN THOMAS: I drove it well the first day. I haven't driven it very well the last two days, but it's pretty wide open out there and I've gotten away with some, but I'm chipping the ball well and pitching it and saving some shots. I just need to tighten up a little bit off the tee and I feel like I can make a lot more birdies tomorrow.

Q. Winning golf tournaments can be mentally and physically exhausting. So how are you going to balance the grind tomorrow trying to win this golf tournament with knowing the travel that you've got coming up and then the Presidents Cup with not a lot of rest?

JUSTIN THOMAS: Yeah, well, I know I have a solid 18-hour flight to get quite a bit of rest on. So that definitely changes it. But it's different here, if that makes sense. You know, I mean, I always say if you're a golf fan, this has to be the greatest tournament to come to. You know, how often can you watch Tiger Woods play and there's only a hundred people out here or whatever it is. It's just bizarre. Because of that, you don't have the roars. You don't have -- you just don't have all the people, and it changes it a little bit in terms of the nerves. You know, you're still trying to win a golf tournament, but it's the Bahamas. It kind of has that Hawaii vibe, where it's just -- you know, you're by the water, you're just kind of like ready to get done so you can go hang out, maybe sit by the pool, do whatever, usually with your family. So it's more of a laid back week. Although all of us want to win. I think it just kind of has that vibe.

Q. Less adrenaline, highs and lows is what you're saying?

JUSTIN THOMAS: I would say so. Yeah, you don't -- you know, like I think of a major, look at a major, and you kind of feed off the crowd and you really kind of get going. And sometimes have to pump yourself down a little bit or kind of cool yourself down. And just

don't have that as much, you know, when you don't have quite as many people.

Q. This is a little out of left field, Justin, but there's a lot of guys in this field that can make a case for best college player of the decade. Where do you think your career stacks up with the national title and a Haskins Award?

JUSTIN THOMAS: I mean, it's pretty good, but I only had two years. So I would think if I played them all, I'd have a lot better argument. But that's a long ways in the past. So I'm more worried about how I'm going to play tomorrow.