### ROUND 3 INTERVIEW December 5, 2020

#### **JUSTIN THOMAS (-12)**



### Q. Frustrated with the first two days, but got it together today. What was the difference?

**JUSTIN THOMAS:** I just made some more putts. I very easily could have shot 62 yesterday. I mean, that was I would say, I told my dad, the worst 67 in the history of golf I think it was yesterday. I played unbelievably, I just really struggled on the greens. They were pretty beat up and pretty slow and I couldn't get the ball to the hole. Felt like I could take advantage of a little bit better greens today and I hit it beautifully again. It's crazy to say that I left some out there, but I finally made some putts and felt a little better over it.

Q. How much has the golf course changed over the first three days? Obviously we haven't had much rain since early this week. Has the golf course dried out some?

**JUSTIN THOMAS:** No, not at all. It was quite a bit softer yesterday just because of the rain I think overnight Thursday to Friday and it's pretty much the same as it was on Thursday today.

Q. I know you and your dad are going to play in the Father-Son. I was talking to your mom and she said your dad's a little nervous, he wants to get back and practice. How much fun is that going to be for you guys?

**JUSTIN THOMAS:** Yeah, it will be a blast. Obviously we want to play well, but it will be a lot more than that. For us to spend time together and play in a Father-Son and be around some legends of the game will be cool.

I know it's the first tournament or thing he's had to prepare for for a while, so he'll enjoy that and I will too, so hopefully we'll go play well.

Q. Sum up your week so far for you here at Mayakoba, 62 for you, Justin. You start the day 10 shots back, right now the margin is 2. What was the mindset of you coming in today?

**JUSTIN THOMAS:** Didn't really have one, to be honest. I played so well yesterday. I mean, I can't imagine somebody shooting a worse 67 than I did yesterday. I felt like I could have shot 60, 61, 62 and shot that, so I just, I really just tried to go out there and didn't really have a game plan or mentality, just try to hit the fairways and, with the ball in hand, just attack and make a bunch of birdies, and we did.

Q. You've got to be (inaudible) in your career, you shoot 62, it's not a huge surprise.

#### Why are you so comfortable when you have these hot starts to then close out?

**JUSTIN THOMAS:** I don't know. I mean, I think I don't get -- try not to get wrapped up in where I'm at or what I'm doing. I'm trying to birdie every single hole. A course like this, as easy as it can play when you get the ball in hand, as soft as it is, if you know how far you're hitting your irons or wedges, the ball is going to stay right where it lands, especially with no wind like yesterday and today. So I feel like I can use that to my advantage.

Very similar to Malaysia, it's same exact kind of grass. If you can hit your numbers and you get your ball in the fairway off the tee, you can get after it.

## Q. We just had your dad, Mike, kind of photo bomb us. Your mom's here as well. Part of an anniversary that the Thomas family is all spending together?

**JUSTIN THOMAS:** Yeah, I'm sure my mom's looking for any excuse to come to a tournament. Yeah, their anniversary was earlier this week. She was just going to be sitting at home in Florida, so figured why not come to Mexico here and enjoy it. She's been able to come out, which has been great. Anytime I get to see them, and everybody out here knows my mom comes to about every tournament, so she's missing the normality as much as anybody.

# Q. How much did the milder conditions really help this course be more gettable? It's pretty right in front of you.

**JUSTIN THOMAS:** Yeah, it's right there. With ball in hand, you can put the ball in the fairway, it's very easy. It's not going to go anywhere when it lands on the green, so if you're hitting your yardages, hitting your numbers, for the most part you're not going to have outside 15, 20 feet all day if you're getting the ball in play. Obviously if you hit it in the rough or the first cut, you can get some mud balls and it can get pretty tough, but for the motion part it's in front of you, you've just got to go out and get it.

#### Q. (Inaudible). How much does that experience --

**JUSTIN THOMAS:** Hopefully, a lot, but I don't know. Those guys still have some scoring holes yet to play and hopefully they won't run away too far from me. I can't really worry about what anybody else is doing, I just need to try to go out tomorrow and shoot another low one because you kind of can't put a ceiling on this place when you're playing it, you've just got to try and make as many as you can.

#### Q. What's the mindset (inaudible)?

**JUSTIN THOMAS:** Yeah, just make as many as I possibly can.

## Q. Congrats on this round, bogey free, amazing round. How do you feel? You've been getting better every day.

**JUSTIN THOMAS:** Yeah, it was great to feel like I had a little bit of a reward for how I played yesterday. I played really well and I mean just did a horrendous job of really taking advantage of how well I hit the ball. Just tried to stay patient, do the same today and made a couple more putts. Hopefully tomorrow will be a day where I make them all.

#### Q. Last two holes from yesterday help you to get more focused for today?

**JUSTIN THOMAS:** Not really. Yesterday, yeah, it was a terrible finish, I was pretty bummed about that, but it's over with and there was nothing I could do as soon as I finished out on 18. So probably being in Cancun and getting back to your room and looking at the beach probably helps get over those bogeys.

#### Q. Your 2020 overall, how will you describe this year?

JUSTIN THOMAS: I mean, weird, bizarre. There's a lot of adjectives that describe this year.

#### Q. And speaking of golf?

**JUSTIN THOMAS:** It's been a good year. Definitely hasn't been great, but it definitely hasn't been bad. I played some really good golf. I haven't I feel like taken advantage of as many opportunities as I should have to win tournaments, but I'm learning, I'm getting better and hopefully we'll just get better next year, too.

# Q. So far your second time here at Mayakoba. Does this invite you to keep coming here in coming years?

**JUSTIN THOMAS:** Yeah, I love this place. I mean, I would play every week if I could. It's all scheduling. Unfortunately you have to do what's best for you and what makes the most sense scheduling-wise. It made sense this year with how everything worked out and just not playing as much and wanting to play a little bit more in the fall, so it worked out great to come this year and hopefully it will in the following years, but you never know.

#### Q. Will you like to win in Mexico after what happened in '18 in Mexico City?

**JUSTIN THOMAS:** I would like to win anywhere, I don't care where it is, what tournament it is, who's playing, who's not playing. I don't care where it is, I would like to win.