

MAX HOMA (-9)

Q. Max, let's start with your final shot, or second to final shot. That almost was your final shot. Tell me about the approach at 18.

MAX HOMA: Yeah, 18's one of the trickier holes out here, for sure. It's got a messed up green, but had a good number. I've been swinging the irons really well and finally got one to get real, real close. It's just a bonus, I guess.

Q. Well, a great finish there, four birdies in a row. Did you find something or just had good numbers?

MAX HOMA: Yeah, I don't know. I've played really, really well this week. I've hit a ton of greens, a ton of good shots. The whole group couldn't really get a putt to go in the last couple days and finally made two in a row there on 15 and 16. Just been solid. A lot of putts today looked like they were going in, so finally having two go felt nice. Just been pretty much everything's been pretty on for the most part. The hole just needs to get a little bigger.

Q. Having won at Riviera, there's some similarities here; there's a lot of tall trees, a lot of tight fairways, isn't there?

MAX HOMA: Yeah. Unfortunately, with all the rain, that's kind of where the comparisons end because you can really get the birdies going out here. Wedge game's been a point of focus this season, which is good for a course like this. You're going to have some wedges, you're going to need to control your spin and your trajectory, so that's fun. Yeah, it's nice playing tree-lined golf courses. Obviously Riviera is known for that, so it feels a little bit like I'm at home.

Q. Max, what got you going there on the closing stretch?

MAX HOMA: The ball finally figured out what it's supposed to do. Played really well the last two days, just like could not get a putt to go in. I hit my first 16 greens yesterday, hit a lot of good putts, but today I hit even better putts. I had I think four or five that I just couldn't believe missed, and finally making one on 15 felt amazing. All of a sudden the ball just started going in, getting close. That's golf, I guess. We did a great job of staying super patient and, like I said, I know I've been playing really well, just sometimes the ball just forgets its job.

Q. Did you change anything?

MAX HOMA: No, no. I mean, I played really, really well yesterday. I didn't make any putts

really, but I played great. The greens obviously, because all the rain, are quite bumpy, so it's tough. And they're tricky greens out here. It's an old-school golf course, got a lot of slope, so finally just maybe getting some looks that didn't have as much break maybe, I don't know. Just the ball started to go in. I made two long ones and then played the par 5s well, and obviously had a bonus on 18 hitting it that close.

Q. What was the club there?

MAX HOMA: 8-iron.

Q. And what is it you like about this course?

MAX HOMA: I like that you've got sectioned, like the greens are sectioned. I'm a good iron player and that usually fits well with my eye. If you can get it in these little like 8- to 10-foot sections, the ball will get close and stay up there. I feel like that's your reward. If you miss those sides, you're going to have kind of weird putts, or sometimes the chips from short-side are easier than the putts up and over these ridges. It just fits me in that regard.

Other than that, the tee shots kind of fit my eye. There's nothing to them really, the trees paint the picture, so it kind of almost -- it almost shows you what to do and I kind of like that. There's no indecision off the tee.

Other than that, it's got 18 holes and it's just another golf course I'm trying to make as many birdies as I can.

Q. Max, do you see any similarities between here and Riviera?

MAX HOMA: Yeah. I mean, the trees, tree-lined off the tee, for sure. Obviously it's really soft this week and Riv has been quite firm last couple times I've played. I guess the sectioned part of the greens is similar. Riviera has a lot more gradual break. This is pretty obvious, you have to hit it in certain quadrants of the green to have relatively easy putts. The way it lays out, yeah, with the big trees framing the holes, for sure.

Q. And the putt on 15 you talked about, did it get you going in all sorts of different ways?

MAX HOMA: Yeah, Joe said it best. He said it's a messed up game -- when we made the putt on 16, he said it's a messed up game we play because we've been feeling like the hole's a thimble and you make one long one and it starts to feel like a bucket. I don't know, it is a messed up game we play. I don't have the answer to all those questions.

Q. So many crowds across the tour were robbed of seeing you guys in person this year. What do you make of this crowd in Detroit?

MAX HOMA: It's phenomenal. Obviously getting to play with someone like Bubba who's a

fan favorite, and playing in front of Phil and Rickie, it's been loud and fun. I really enjoyed it. It was a huge bummer obviously to have so many events robbed of having fans out there. They're making up for it really well here, people just yelling thanks for coming to Detroit, so appreciative. It's really cool that we get to be a part of that. We've got a dream job as it is, but when you have fans like this, it makes it even better.

Q. I know Waste Management's the gold standard for fan environments, but when you guys all birdied there and just the roars there, can you describe what you guys were all feeling, maybe looking around at each other?

MAX HOMA: Yeah, that was cool. I was proud of Mack because he had -- he was in big spot. He misses that putt, he messes it up for all of us, so I was proud of him. It's just cool. They do such a great job with the stands out here and obviously the people coming out makes all that even better. Yeah, it's a fun week. I'm glad the rain's gone away so we can get some more cheers and some more roars.