ROUND 1 INTERVIEW NOVEMBER 4, 2021

JUSTIN THOMAS (-3)



Q. (In progress) with the start or pleased with the turnaround?

JUSTIN THOMAS: I've got to be -- I should be and I will be more pleased with the turnaround, but at the moment I've got to figure out how to just get off to a little bit better start. It's the same sort of thing as Vegas, just really having a hard time getting in a focus and just kind of getting in that competitive mind frame. Unfortunately, at a course like this, you can't afford to be 3 over through 11 holes every time you play it.

No, I mean, that seven-hole stretch really kept me in the tournament, so I'm very, very pleased to do that.

Q. You mentioned Vegas. Has this been something that you struggled with in the past or is this kind of a new --

JUSTIN THOMAS: No, I just think it's from lack of competitive golf. Anytime I take two or three weeks off, at least for me personally, it takes a little bit to get back into it. I had just an atrocious warmup, so that didn't help, but I'm usually pretty good at kind of finding something. I was hitting drives that weren't bad, they were just missing the fairway, which being in the rough is a lot different than the fairway when you've got ball in hand.

So I think it's -- there at the end of the year I started getting into a lot better rhythm, and then you take a couple weeks off after the Ryder Cup and play and take another couple weeks off, I really just think it's just rust more than anything. But that's still no excuse, I've got to figure it out.

Q. How were you able to turn it around? Is there something freeing --

JUSTIN THOMAS: Not really. When you're pretty much in last place, there's not really a whole lot good about it. I just couldn't hit the fairways. You just can't play out here from the rough. Like I said, with ball in hand, this course is so easy if you can just put it in the fairway. Whenever I did have a couple chances, I wasn't hitting it close to the hole, and then if I hit it somewhat close, I would just kind of burn the edge.

Yeah, making those putts on 3 and 4 just kind of got some momentum going, and I knew that my goal was to try to get it in the 60s with seven to go and it was nice to get one more than that.