

LEXI THOMPSON
BUBBA WATSON (-13)

Q. Just your thoughts on the round today. From what I saw anyway, Lexi, it seemed like you were really getting off to a good start there. I know you had your own birdie on 5, I think. Just to be where you're at after today?

BUBBA WATSON: Did you already answer that one?

LEXI THOMPSON: Do you want me to start?

BUBBA WATSON: No, let me start. She played amazing. Couldn't ask for a better partner. She made some key putts. It was funny, we weren't sure of the rules. She made five putts in a row so I didn't get to putt for a few holes, so I was like, am I allowed to like putt the same putt, like finish the hole? So I had to ask the rules official because I didn't putt for a few holes.

I didn't have my best. There was a couple shots I had some loose shots, but she kept it together and kept our team rolling. Felt the energy was nice. I felt we had some good conversations. Shooting in the 50s, it's a good spot to be at and we're not too far out of it. The next couple days are really the days that you can drop back or go forward real fast, so that's the whole goal is to hit some good tee shots tomorrow so we can be in some good places to hopefully make a few birdies.

Q. Lexi, what about playing with Bubba today kind of helped? What did he kind of bring to the table that helped you out as well?

LEXI THOMPSON: Well, it was an amazing day. He had a lot of fun. Like he said, we had a lot of good conversations out there. I think we did great about ham-and-egging it out there. I made a few birdies on the front and then he came through on the back, hitting on the drivable hole to about 10 feet and then making a 2 on his own ball. That's all great with scramble and just working as a team. It was just a lot of fun. I enjoyed watching him play for the first time in person, so I'm looking forward to the next two days with him.

Q. Real quick on that, what impressed you so much about watching him play in person for the first time? And then Bubba, the same thing about Lexi for you?

LEXI THOMPSON: I kind of knew going into it just the way he shapes shots into greens and off the tee and everything. I was actually expecting a lot more shot shaping, but it was still so impressive. I'm just amazed with the guys, how high they can hit it, how they can work balls into pins. I learn something every time I tee it up with the guys, especially Bubba. He had

some loose ones, but he had some amazing golf shots today, so I just enjoyed watching every bit of it.

BUBBA WATSON: Yeah, for sure. I was at the Solheim Cup so I got to watch them up close. A little bit different pressure than most tournaments so you got to see some different things, but I've been able to watch her play, watch her career. She's played here for a few years when I've been here, so I've gotten to see some highlights. It's impressive.

Like I've always said, it doesn't matter, male or female, an athlete is an athlete, so they're impressive to watch. It's inspiring to watch her career. I mean, what did we find out today, 12 years old your first time playing in a tournament as an amateur? When you think about that career, how long it's been for her even, though she's still so young, it's impressive and inspiring because when you watch great athletes, you take something away from that and you learn from that and you see how they handle situations.

Now with us being able to discuss how we're going to attack a putt or attack a chip shot or an iron shot and what the iron is, I get to learn what she's thinking and then maybe next time when I have that shot, oh, maybe next time I should think differently how she thought here and what we should do. So strategy, but when you get to see somebody like that, a great champion like that and talk to them in person while the match is going on, you can definitely learn something there, for sure.

Q. So you guys have both played here before. We have modified alternate shot tomorrow. Is there one facet that you guys feel like is more important? Have you guys talked strategy at all about this?

BUBBA WATSON: I'm going the odd holes.

LEXI THOMPSON: I'm just happy it's modified and we can both tee off. I'll just try to get one in the fairway and then he can just send it, that's the goal. Besides that, we're both playing I guess the course the way we would naturally, so I'm just going to try to get it in the fairway and then he can do whatever he wants aggressively wise.

BUBBA WATSON: Being modified -- it's true, and in the scramble today, so on No. 10, I never -- in a tournament I would never hit driver there, like I would never, but since she was in the fairway, pin was up front, I tried to draw a driver that's built not to draw, right? So I hit it so far out in the trees, but it was -- it didn't mean anything, right, because we knew she already laid up perfect, so what good is that for me to lay up again.

Same thing tomorrow, if she hits one down the middle, she's in good position, I can try to somehow hook the driver again and try to get down there. So you change strategy that way. You'll hit a couple different shots just because of that, that you have a partner already in play in perfect position, so why both of us lay up in the same spot.