

SAHITH THEEGALA (-9)

Q. Round of 67 today, yesterday 68, what was different out there conditions-wise?

SAHITH THEEGALA: Yeah, yesterday it was blowing. It was -- and the hard part was it wasn't a steady wind. There was times you would get over a shot and it was blowing five and there's times where we're literally playing for 25 yards of wind, so it was really tricky. And I scored it incredible yesterday and honestly played way better yesterday than I did today, but conditions are just perfect. I was first off, greens are as pure as they can possibly be. And there was really no wind until my back nine there, so I was able to take advantage of that front nine even though everything wasn't necessarily clicking. Honestly, really happy with the way I scored.

Q. Sahith, you have a fan club that really travels, you had a lot of family watching you on the west coast and then your brother and his friend were watching you at the Travelers. Now we're in Detroit, which that's not really near where your brother goes to school and it's not in the west. Do you have anybody at all?

SAHITH THEEGALA: Yeah, it's funny, a lot of my dad's friends that he went to college with in India, there's a pretty big Indian community in the Dearborn, Canton area, so I had an uncle come out yesterday and watch. I call him uncle, he's one of my dad's good friends. I think there will be a few more out on the weekend. Yeah, they're going to be out there for the first week of the Playoffs, so that's going to be nice. At least my dad, I don't think my mom and brother, they're actually in India right now. Yeah, it was pretty good even after the round yesterday to see a familiar face.

Q. You said you've been hitting well and not scoring and so far scoring well and not hitting. Kind of weird, golf in a nutshell?

SAHITH THEEGALA: Yeah, golf in a nutshell, yeah. I say hitting it well and not scoring, I was still scoring it well, it just felt like I was leaving so many shots out there. I can count on my right hand how many good putting weeks I've had this year. It's nice to get off to a good start like this. It is golf in a nutshell. I was texting a buddy yesterday, I was like it's just impossible to get every part of your game clicking at the right time. But it seems like the great players, the top-10 players seem to find a way to do that on weeks. There's certain weeks where everything's clicking and that's when they end up winning.

Q. How did it feel yesterday coming in with 68 knowing that you would probably get a break this morning?

SAHITH THEEGALA: Yeah, gosh, I scored it really well yesterday and I had a really funny



finish. I tried to hit driver off the deck out of the rough. Carl tried to talk me out of it on 17, but I hit it in a cross bunker 60 yards away. I was happy to make par there. Then first time me and Carl's caddie-player'ship, we had a wrong number on 18, went off the wrong head, airmailed the green, we were 20 yards off. I made a 10-footer to finish yesterday so that was big. And knew like this morning was going to be a green light special, the course is just too pure right now. It still penalizes you in the rough, but hit the fairways, nearly every hole seems like a birdie hole. I think that's what's great about this course, you can make a ton of birdies, but you get out of position, you're really scrambling.

Q. What have you learned about all these close calls this year?

SAHITH THEEGALA: Yeah, you know, golf is tough and I feel like I've had a very good year, but fairly streaky. It's either like whenever I'm playing well, I feel like I'm in contention, but the weeks, even it feels a little off. I think I'm starting to get better at making those weeks from like a 60th -- I made a lot of cuts, but I had a lot of 60th finishes and kind of taking those into the John Deere was a great example, I finished 16th there and 34 at The Open. Just making those bad weeks a little better. Bad weeks, I'm still playing well. Yeah, I'll never take being in contention for granted. Luckily my game's been on a steady trend upwards and hopefully I keep putting in the work and keep showing on the course.

Q. When do you start -- obviously the goal coming in every week's just to get that win, but when do you start letting yourself think about that, that possibility?

SAHITH THEEGALA: Honestly, never. My whole life I've never really allowed myself to get ahead. I think a lot of the guys who are prolific winners out here will say the same thing. They're not really thinking about the win unless it's really late on Sunday on the back nine and all of a sudden those guys find themselves on the top of the leaderboard and they find a way to close. Honestly, even my mindset coming into the weeks is not to win. I feel there's so much more to my game that I have to progress. I was joking with Carl, I played like a 5 handicap on that front nine today, I was blading wedges, flopping drivers. It was gnarly. But it was just cool to see I have a lot of room to improve. Yeah, so I'm not too worried about the win. If I'm able to get it sometime soon, then awesome.

Q. Still looking for that first though, right?

SAHITH THEEGALA: Yes. Trust me, I want it more than anything. I might not seem like it, but I'm so competitive and there's nothing I hate more than losing. Trust me, I'm grinding as hard as I can for that win, but I'm not forcing it all, you know. Just I've grown so much this year and I feel like I'm putting myself in a good position for the rest of the tournaments, the Playoffs and then hopefully early into next year.

Q. I just met a little 8-year-old boy name Trey. You gave your glove to him.

SAHITH THEEGALA: Cool.



Q. I asked him and he said all he wanted was his hat to be signed and then you gave him your glove, and he could barely talk he was so excited. I know you get young fans at every stop, but does that get old or what does that mean to you?

SAHITH THEEGALA: Oh, no, it's awesome. It's the opposite. It's so new for me and it's just so cool that I have so many people rooting for me. To make Trey's day like that is just, it puts a smile on my face, too. It's so cool that people are out there rooting for me. I wish there was a way to like thank every individual person supporting me, there's just so many that it's not possible. I feel the love every week now and it's incredible, it's so positive.

Q. You mentioned that you feel like there's others that are probably ahead of you for Rookie of the Year?

SAHITH THEEGALA: Yeah, yeah.

Q. How big a goal is that for you and what do you think a victory this week would do for your chances?

SAHITH THEEGALA: Yeah, it's not really a goal that I had or even now that I'm close that I feel like I need to get or anything. It's just those guys, like Davis, Mito. I mean, Cam Young by far is the frontrunner right now in my opinion and more deserving right now. If I happen to have a great couple weeks here and in the Playoffs, then maybe that might change, but like I said, I think Cam's 9 or 10 under today. Yeah, he's such a talent and I think he's deserving of it.

