

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW

November 18, 2022

SAHITH THEEGALA (-11)



Q. How do you feel after two days here?

SAHITH THEEGALA: Yeah, I feel really good. Obviously last one of the season and you kind of want to leave with a good taste in your mouth. Yeah, feel great through two rounds. Playing really solid and I have been playing solid all fall, so it's nice to see the form kind of continue.

Q. Three birdies over the last four holes, got to feel good to get the momentum rolling into the weekend?

SAHITH THEEGALA: Definitely. I was still playing well on the start of the front, just hit a poor iron shot on 3. But I think I was event through five on the front on some easy holes and I got a couple long ones to go in on 6 and 8 there, which was big. It was definitely a bonus. Then made a nice five-footer for par on the last. You miss that, kind of leaves a sour taste in your mouth, but it was honestly a great round.

Q. A couple top-10s this fall and a top- 25 last week, how good are you feeling with where your game's at right now?

SAHITH THEEGALA: Yeah, I sound like a broken record but I feel like I've made so much progress in my game the last two or three years and I kind of don't even think about the progress sometimes, I just keep putting in the work and seeing the results, and all that come with it has been so cool to me and I just don't want to kind of lose that perspective. It's kind of all that's on my mind is keep putting in the work and keep enjoying it and not really taking it for granted.

Q. You played 32 events last season and you've already played five, I think --

SAHITH THEEGALA: Yeah, yeah.

Q. -- this season. Did you not get worn out with the 32?

SAHITH THEEGALA: Yeah, I was definitely worn out after 32. I put down my clubs for seven days, which for me is a lot.

Actually, I've taken three weeks off this fall, which for me that's a lot. It feels like I took two straight weeks off, Bermuda, Mexico, put the clubs away for seven days again and felt super recharged for last week and this week. I just, I'm an addict and I just love to play. So I'm still going to be playing a lot I think, but definitely toning it down. I'm trying to hit like 26, 27 this

year.

Q. That's still a lot.

SAHITH THEEGALA: Yeah, I think as long as I make sure my body -- No. 1, is my health and just make sure my body can handle it and not really push it too much. Last year I definitely pushed it, but it was also my first year and I kind of got into some events that I didn't think I would get into. So it's a great problem to have.

Q. Are you pleased? Sounds like you're pleased and maybe ahead of what you thought you would do when you came out here?

SAHITH THEEGALA: Yeah, I'd probably be lying if I said I wasn't -- I didn't really have much expectations. My only expectations was to make the Tour and keep my card. I didn't really have any concrete goals or anything, I just wanted to keep getting better because I saw the progress from my last year of college to even the year I played mini-tour.

So yeah, now I don't even think about it. Now I'm just like each week is a new week and a new opportunity. I don't even kind of have expectations for myself anymore, which is a good spot to be in.

Q. Are you -- did you find that you went to different parts of the country than you had seen when you were living in California?

SAHITH THEEGALA: Yeah.

Q. What was the most surprising for you?

SAHITH THEEGALA: I mean, I still felt like I traveled a lot just in college, and I've got to thank my coach for taking us everywhere the last couple years. We played pretty much all over the country.

Obviously this year I've already gotten to go to some cool spots like Dominican Republic and Japan. I'm pumped to go to wherever else golf takes me this year and in the future.

Yeah, it's been really cool to travel. I truly enjoy traveling and I'm a big food junkie, so I like trying new foods and just trying to see one or two new places every week.

Q. Do you have a favorite spot or top-5 spots?

SAHITH THEEGALA: That's tough right now. I mean, Japan might have been my favorite trip ever, honestly. I think it's actually a pretty easy one for me to say. I've enjoyed a ton of trips. Most of the stops we make are pretty good.

Q. Excellent. And after this week, I mean, you obviously have a great chance to win if

you just keep doing what you're doing?

SAHITH THEEGALA: Yeah, for sure.

Q. Is that all up here or --

SAHITH THEEGALA: Yeah, I don't even think about it honestly, yeah, just kind of keep going.

Q. All right. Well, maybe you'll be back here Sunday.

SAHITH THEEGALA: Thank you.

Q. Outside with radio you said even though it was a 63, you feel like you didn't play great and hit a lot of smart shots. Talk about what those smart shots were that you kind of had to execute?

SAHITH THEEGALA: Yeah, I just wasn't too crisp even kind of this whole last few days warming up with the irons and wedges and stuff. There's a lot of tricky little falloff areas around here so I couldn't get too, so I was kind of playing to the fat side of the green a lot. Luckily I was in a lot of fairways, so I was able to do that. So a lot of times I was pin high, which was big.

Yeah, I didn't really fire anything and it wasn't like I was absolutely striping a lot of these shots. Some of them were mis-hit and stuff, but we were just picking really good targets with Carl.

And yeah, the putter, I could have easily shot 1 or 2 under today and walked away being just fine because I felt like I kind of got a lot out of it, but a lot of putts went in for me, which was a key.

Q. Do you have a lot of low 60 scores that you think are not great rounds?

SAHITH THEEGALA: No. This was honestly one of the best putting rounds I've had in a very long time. Putting was always the best part of my game kind of growing up and even in college, and last couple years I've hit the ball so much better that I've had more looks and my putting stats have kind of gone down. It was just fun to kind of rekindle some of the old magic.

But no, golf is so hard. There's always something that goes really, really, really good when you shoot something in the low 60s.

Q. And you were on Seaside today, correct?

SAHITH THEEGALA: Seaside.

Q. How happy are you to continue playing Seaside the next couple days?

SAHITH THEEGALA: Yeah, I think it's great. I don't know what the numbers on the draws will be, I think it's pretty even because probably Seaside played a little harder yesterday, but obviously Plantation probably was playing easy today.

Yeah, the weather was great and I think took advantage of that. It's nice to kind of keep it rolling on Seaside. So making the adjustment from Plantation to here, although both courses are in such good shape that there really isn't too much of a transition or anything.

Q. I heard you talking to the radio, PGA TOUR Radio guys about putting on bermuda. You said something about learning something about it in Houston and then coming here?

SAHITH THEEGALA: Yeah, yeah. I grew up on the west coast my whole life and always been a good putter on bentgrass and poa, but a lot of the stops we make on Tour are bermuda and grainy bermuda with that. So it's been really helpful for me to move there and kind of practice with guys and play on courses that are grainy.

For me, I have a really hard time reading bermuda greens, or I did have a really hard time and now I feel like I have -- I don't think you ever figure out actually how to read bermuda, but I feel like I have a really good idea at least of speed and that's helped so much for me.

Q. Can you explain to people who might not understand the difference? Do you have to hit it harder on bermuda or easier on bermuda, or is it a bit more or less?

SAHITH THEEGALA: Yeah, there's no like mantra or one thing that you do different on bermuda. I think it's just more variables whereas poa and bent you can kind of see what you have and kind of what the slope is doing, right?

But the bermuda, you have to take in the slope and the grain. Sometimes the cup will be sitting -- the slope will be going one way and the grain will be going the other way and it ends up being a pretty straight putt, whereas with the other grasses it would kind of break off at the slope.

So that's kind of been the main thing. Yeah, I don't think anyone ever really figures -- putting is just, you need a lot of luck.