

ASTARA GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP
Presented by Mastercard

ROUND 3 INTERVIEW
February 11, 2023



THOMAS ROSENMUELLER (-9)

Q. All right, Thomas, great finish for you there on 18 with a birdie. Just kind of walk us through that hole in particular and what were you looking at on 18.

THOMAS ROSENMUELLER: I hit a good drive, unfortunately ended up in the rough so had to be a little bit cautious on the second shot. Felt like it came out screaming so I yelled "fore" just in case, but ended up on the green and two-putted from about 65 feet.

Q. How's this week felt for you overall? Obviously playing great golf, two-course setup, just walk us through how it's been.

THOMAS ROSENMUELLER: I played really well. I think so far I've missed about four greens the entire week, or five. Been really good off the tee, been really good into the greens and now just wait for the putter to get a little bit hotter. But overall the game feels really good. I'm not surprised to see myself very far atop the leaderboard because I played well the last few weeks, been trending in the right direction and hopefully can get it done tomorrow.

Q. Yeah, last year from like May to July there was a little bit of a rough struggle for you. Walk me through like what changed between then and now. Are there any changes that you've made?

THOMAS ROSENMUELLER: Made slight swing changes. Also adjusted a little bit the equipment. When a new driver came out from Titleist, I felt a lot more comfortable with the new setup and started hitting about 25 percent more fairways, which makes it a lot easier. I went from about 50 to 75 percent, which out here makes life a hell of a lot easier.

Q. How big was that fifth place at Q-School this last year?

THOMAS ROSENMUELLER: It was very big. Especially going through it the year before, I knew the courses so it was an advantage overall playing better than the year before. Didn't have to shoot 63 in the final round to make it, so I was a lot more relaxed going into the final round and was able to just kind of put it on cruise control. Tried to win, but I knew that I wasn't going to miss it.

Q. No matter what, this will be your best position heading into the final round. Walk me through I guess how that feels and what you're looking forward to about



tomorrow.

THOMAS ROSENMUELLER: It feels great. I haven't been in this situation for probably three years, since I played in Europe. Been playing really well. I just enjoy it. Get a good night's sleep and be ready for it tomorrow.

Q. Yeah. What have you learned from those wins in Europe and what can you apply going into tomorrow?

THOMAS ROSENMUELLER: Keep it in front of you. I always say keep it simple, stupid. Sometimes, you know, when you want to win, you feel like you have to do something special, something extra, and most of the time it's just the consistency, doing the same thing that got you in that position in the first place.

Q. If you could pin it to one thing, what is the key to mastering the Lagos course?

THOMAS ROSENMUELLER: Hit the greens and distance control on the putts. Because some of these flags, they are in positions you cannot get the ball close, so you really have 65-, 70-footers over big ridges. So if your speed control's off, you three-putt here or there, you drop shots consistently. So it's just really, it's the iron game and the putting.

Q. And then this round today, it was like you started off with a birdie, then a bogey, and then you had four birdies in a row. Kind of up and down, but how did it feel from your perspective?

THOMAS ROSENMUELLER: It felt really good. Obviously I got on a heater there, but also hit it really close, a tap-in on 9, two-putted for birdie on 8, so I was hitting the ball really well, two-putt for birdie on 10. For four holes if the longest birdie putt you had was 10 feet, makes life really easy out here. I just hope to keep that momentum going for tomorrow.

Q. And then last question, just the elevation, how did you change or adjust your game?

THOMAS ROSENMUELLER: Obviously take the distance before I get here and sometimes got to be aware of elevation. If you hit the ball high, it goes further; if you hit lower, it doesn't go as far.

You know, growing up in Germany, I don't have a problem with elevation skiing growing up, so I felt comfortable here all week. Obviously you struggle to sleep the first couple nights, but overall I feel very comfortable here. I like this place. I had one of my better results last year here, so just trying to keep it up.

