

Q. Justin, how would you kind of assess the round today?

JUSTIN THOMAS: I played very solid. I got off to obviously a great start birdieing the first two and let a couple go, making bogeys on holes that I would definitely say are easier holes.

It was definitely nice to make that birdie on 15 after hitting that eagle putt past. I just played very solid. I drove the ball really well, hit some very quality irons. I'd really like to wedge the ball closer this weekend, but just very, very solid.

Q. You talked about putting with Todd. Did I see you doing AimPoint Express out there today? Is that new or did I just miss something?

JUSTIN THOMAS: Yeah, I learned it last week or I guess had a lesson with it. It just, I felt like it was something that maybe it's the missing piece, maybe it's not. Like I said, I feel like I've been putting significantly better than the putting results have shown and a lot of it, at least I've noticed these last two days is it just takes a lot of the guessing out and simplifies it.

Obviously you get some specific putts that are left edge or left center or a cup or whatever, but out here at a place like this you have a lot of big breaking putts and putts that require some feel to where I'm able to get an "ish" read kind of in a certain area. Then I'm able to use my feel and my kind of touch that I feel like I have to match the speed to that. It's really just, it's actually sped everything up for me, it's sped my process up and simplified it. I've really liked it the last two days.

Q. You just told Todd about being in a better head space. How much of that has to do with being here where you've had so much success?

JUSTIN THOMAS: Yeah, I'd like to think so. I have obviously a lot of great memories here. Talking to Bones, having him here for the Presidents Cup, we were talking about a lot of different shots whether it be from us or Jordan or guys we were playing against, whatever from this golf course. Yeah, I mean, this is a very, very special place to me and always will be, so it's always going to put me in a good head space here.

Q. Why do you think you played well? Is there one part of your game that stands out? I kind of compared strokes gained --

JUSTIN THOMAS: I don't know. I feel like you -- I know how to get around the course pretty well. I think it's obviously different but kind of similar to Augusta. I feel like if I'm not hitting it well, there's always a spot I have like I can kind of get it to.



It's very difficult to chip around the greens, but again, just missing it in the right spots. You know there's going to be times where you're going to play a round out here and you're going to be kind of in between clubs a lot and you're going to have to play conservative and just kind of play away from putting yourself in the bad spots or short-sided. I feel like I know that and when I'm on, I feel like I can kind of be aggressive and attack and put it in good spots and, you know, be aggressive on my putts.

Q. Justin, your approach numbers were pretty great today, but it was interesting to me to hear you say I want to hit my wedges closer on the weekends. Justify that for me. How do you think you can do any better?

JUSTIN THOMAS: Well, my iron game was great, my wedges were not. I mean, my wedge on 1 was terrible, my wedge on 7 was worse. Trying to think of any other holes. There's just a couple holes here and there. I had a couple yesterday where I'm just not -- it's just the left pins. I mean, I feel like I'm hitting the ball really well, I'm hitting it solid, but the good thing is I'm missing it on the right spots. But when I'm really hitting it my best, those left pins, I'm not scared to aim at the left edge of the green, cut it into it, and I'm just not quite there or haven't been the last two days.

But that's fine, I don't need to birdie every hole, it's obviously helpful and nice, but I've just played to what I feel like I know I have and hopefully just tighten that up and feel like I can make some more.

Q. Justin, had you gotten away from feel in your putting? When you do, what does that mean, like you're just too mechanical or too regimented?

JUSTIN THOMAS: It's a little bit of both. I think it's -- obviously when things are going well, it's always easy, right? It's just -- the hardest part for call it my golf swing, if I'm not hitting it well, I can always hit a shot. If I step up on 1 tee and I feel like I can't hit a driver on the planet, I'm just going to aim it left and I'll hit a 70-yard slice out there and I feel like in my head I can hit the fairway. But a putt, left edge is left edge. I can't create, you know what I'm saying, I can't like create some kind of shot. I think sometimes I let that get in my head whereas I was just trying to simplify it. I do all the appropriate work in terms of my start line, my mechanics and I just need to basically have faith and trust in my ability that I'm choosing right. At the end of the day whether it's AimPoint, whether it's reading the greens, it's a guess, it's just your best guess and I need to have more faith that my guess is really good.

Q. Is there somebody that taught this to you last week? You said you started last week. Did you have someone to help you?

JUSTIN THOMAS: Yeah, my putting coach, John Graham, and I, we got together with Mark Sweeney and he came Wednesday of last week and we saw him whatever, it was probably two or three hours and just worked with him.



Q. Like it clicks, like it's not that hard?

JUSTIN THOMAS: No. I mean Keegan and Max have both been very helpful for me because they both do it. I called both of them, I talked to them for a while. Keegan said it best, it's a very simple idea but like a complex system, if you will, or maybe opposite. It's one of those things that once you get it, it's a very generic, pretty simple like bang, go, do it. It's just getting comfortable enough with what you're feeling. And how everybody feels slope is different. How I feel it might be different than you or Keegan or Max or whatever. At the end of the day, if the ball's going in the hole, who cares, right?

Q. What day was that?

JUSTIN THOMAS: Wednesday.

