

ROUND 2 QUOTES
February 2, 2024



JUSTIN THOMAS (-9)

Q. How close do you think you are to being completely comfortable (inaudible)?

JUSTIN THOMAS: Well, I mean, "as I've ever been" is tough, but I'm plenty comfortable enough and playing well enough to win. I feel like I am. It's just about doing it and getting myself in contention more often and kind of feeling those feelings again. I mean, at AmEx it was unfamiliar, I hadn't really been -- I hadn't been in a final group for a while. It's just continue to keep playing well and just keep working on the things I'm working on and just trying to not make the game any harder than it is really.

Q. (No microphone.)

JUSTIN THOMAS: Patience, for sure. Yeah, it would be very -- I mean, to be perfectly honest, I know of a handful of guys that have avoided some of these west coast tournaments on poa because of how much it messes with your head. A lot of really, really good putters, that it will make you feel like you're putting bad. A place like this, I'll never be that focused and spend that much time and attention on a one-foot putt. I mean, it's just anything can happen on poa annua. The ball bounces so much, especially when they're this soft. Everybody has to deal with it, and for me I've tried to stay really, really patient and I understand I have missed my fair share of putts but I've also hit a lot of really good putts and I'm walking off today thinking about that putt on 18 I made versus the others ones I missed.

Q. Curious, just how do you make the game more difficult? What is going on in your head that then gets in the way of simplifying it? Are there just certain aspects, tendencies?

JUSTIN THOMAS: For me I think it's forcing the issue, understanding if you're in between clubs, maybe that's not a time to be aggressive. If you have a tee shot that maybe doesn't fit your eye, it's hitting a different club off the tee. It's just -- I mean, these last now, whatever, tournament and a half has been I feel like more "me" golf. I think, you know, relying on my short game, relying on my wedge game, playing smart, playing patient and understanding that at any point throughout a 72-hole tournament I could get hot and shoot, you know, 8, 9, 10, 11 under. I just try to stay patient and hope or let that happen.

So I feel like I'm -- obviously I feel like I have good control of my ball right now and I'm hitting it well, but I just, if I'm not, I'm just trying to make sure that I'm missing it on the correct sides. If I'm between clubs with a 5- or 6-iron, I'm not trying to force a 5-iron back there close, it's just hit a 5- or 6-iron in there 30 feet short, two-putt and move on. I just think that stuff adds up over time.



Q. Do you have an example of maybe that today where you were in between clubs or something that you made the right decision that you were happy with?

JUSTIN THOMAS: It's little things. It's like --

Q. No specific holes?

JUSTIN THOMAS: Like 8, No. 8's a decent example. I didn't make birdie, but it was a perfect 8-iron. It's a super, super tucked pin. In reality you have probably two yards that you need -- that you have short of the hole that you need to land it. It's a pretty narrow little sliver back there.

I mean, I do feel like I could have very comfortable -- I had 181 and it was mostly off the left, a little help. I was like if I hit a solid 8-iron that rides the wind, it's a perfect club. But when it's a little cold like this, I just barely bottom groove it or I just maybe turn it up against the wind, it might not get there. So I just, I hit 7 because I knew that I took short completely out of play and I felt like I had enough control that I could gauge the distance and put it back there in a good spot and I did. I hit a really good putt I thought I made and just missed, but it was an easy 4 and you move on.

Q. I know you said last year you felt like you weren't far away when you were struggling a bit. In the little time you had off, what's the balance I guess with the struggle of trying to change some things versus sticking to the course in that sense and how did you go through that?

JUSTIN THOMAS: I got in I felt like bad habits in my swing, so just trying to get rid of those, just go back to kind of being me, playing my golf, my game.

Again, it's very easy to kind of go -- you can go down wormholes in this game pretty easily and make it very, very, very difficult. I might be in some areas a little bit like that, but for the most part that's not me. I like to play golf, not golf swing and that's what I've just been trying to do, I guess.

Q. Jordan said earlier this week, he was talking about this event as a Signature event, he said it's kind of important here as a proof of concept. Do you agree with that and if so, why?

JUSTIN THOMAS: Sorry?

Q. As like a proof of concept, that this concept works.

JUSTIN THOMAS: Yeah, I've never thought of it, but I guess yeah, it would make sense.

I mean, I would think -- you never know, right? You obviously don't know. We can't control who watches, how many people watch, how many people come to the tournament. You



could have bad weather that people don't come out. There's a lot of factors that go into it.

But for a golf fan, I would think that they would want to watch an event like this as much as they would want to watch a major because realistically a lot -- not obviously all, but the majority of the same players are playing in it. This is all the top players in the world that are playing in these handful of events together each year, or each season.

Yeah, I would think that they will do well and that was at least the thought and goal behind it. Like you said, I guess it is a little bit of you want it validated that it will work. I guess we'll see.

Q. One follow up to that point. Obviously the field's so much better than it's been in the past, but there's also no celebrities. I got some emails from fans that sort of question that, the athletes but not the Bill Murrays. How do you balance that, because that's kind of the identity of this tournament in some ways?

JUSTIN THOMAS: That's I'd say a little past my pay grade. I'm not really the tournament director, I don't make those decisions. And it could be a little bit of trial and error, I don't know. Maybe it's something that they tried something this year and if it does work they'll stick with it; if it doesn't, they'll try something different. But this is also such a unique event that you can't really compare this to the other events. You know, it's a tough spot, it is.

