

**ROUND 1 QUOTES**  
May 9, 2024

**JUSTIN THOMAS (-3)**



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

**JUSTIN THOMAS:** I played solid, I drove it really well, just kind of stayed patient, felt like I didn't take advantage of a couple opportunities. But no, I mean, I really hung in there well. It's obviously very soft, at least the rest of the course, but the greens have quite a bit of bounce to them being new. No, overall it was a really, really solid round.

**Q. What's the challenge of that, the soft fairways versus the much firmer greens? What's the biggest challenge for you?**

**JUSTIN THOMAS:** It's just kind of trusting it. I think, I mean, the speed of the greens, they're I would say a couple feet slower than normal, at least in past years. I had a couple -- like on 16 today, on 1 where I missed the green by like a yard and if it flies on, I probably have somewhere within 10 to 15 feet, but when it lands -- it kind of is a little bit like Bay Hill can get where it's very soft fairways. But you're trying to just cover that front edge, but if you don't cover it, it's going to stay short. Everybody's dealing with it, it's a tough -- it's just a tough test, I'd say.

**Q. We've talked about this for years whether it be going from Firestone to the PGA back in the day, having an event like this at a course like this, a major championship venue going into a major championship next week, how much of a help, is it a hindrance, does it tire you out a little bit when you have to deal with a course like this before a major?**

**JUSTIN THOMAS:** I don't know. I'll let you know next week. I like this before next week. I think although the courses probably play and look very different, they're similar in a lot of ways. It's a lot of drivers and it's a premium on hitting the fairways. I think it's definitely a ball-striking course, so I like that aspect of it, that it kind of gets me in the mindset of very similar to how it will be next week. But yeah, in terms of what it does to the other stuff, I guess it's TBD.

**Q. Justin, you were talking about similar, different, Quail Hollow to next week, big brawny golf courses. So we're kind of doing a little fun game here setting a line over/under. Gary set it at 12 under for the winner next week at Valhalla, 7,600 yards, par 71, might be wet.**

**JUSTIN THOMAS:** It will be wet.

**Q. 12 under winning?**



**JUSTIN THOMAS:** I'm terrible at this.

**Q. Rory was 16 a decade ago.**

**JUSTIN THOMAS:** I think it's really good. My guess after playing it last week, I said like 12 to 16. That's generally a pretty good -- it totally depends on the weather. If I had to put something on it, I would say the over, but I don't know.

**Q. You're talking about four 67s.**

**JUSTIN THOMAS:** Yes.

**Q. No, four 67s for 16 rounds.**

**JUSTIN THOMAS:** Yeah.

**Q. That's a lot under par.**

**JUSTIN THOMAS:** Yeah. I mean, if the greens are soft though, it doesn't matter how long it is. We're going to shoot low scores if the greens are soft. It's a lot of long clubs, but just getting the ball up and down around the green, it's night and day different when the greens are firm versus soft, I'd say.

**Q. You did better than you said you did.**

**JUSTIN THOMAS:** What's that?

**Q. You did better than you said you did.**

**JUSTIN THOMAS:** OK, thanks.

