

ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTES

October 25, 2024

THOMAS BJORN (-7)



Q. Thomas, we'll start at the end, the approach shot into 18.

THOMAS BJORN: Yeah, I actually thought I hit a really good drive and it just took a bit of a kick left. I had a good lie there in the rough. Yeah, that just came out perfect. As soon as it came out, I said that's it, that's the one you want.

So the last three holes kind of made up for a bad swing on 13 and that cost me a double. Other than that, the golf was just very good all day. I haven't had a good start in the last few events in the first round, and kind of played well on the weekend. Kind of came in here wanting to try and get a better start and I've certainly done that. Now we build from here.

Q. When you entered the season with the expectation of trying to get a card next year full time out here, came coming into this week you're in great position, what does it mean to get off to this fast start?

THOMAS BJORN: Yeah, I think I got a little bit in my head the last couple of weeks and I just kind of had to free myself up a little bit and go and play the golf instead of focusing on rankings and focusing on what I could concentrate on and play some good golf.

The weekend last week was probably the one where I felt like I'm playing way too good golf to be thinking about stuff like that. Go and enjoy myself on the golf course. I feel like I'm in the position where it's almost impossible for me not to keep a card for next year, so to go and enjoy this week.

And slight advantage this week that nobody's played the golf course before. I feel like that's one of the big things, every tournament we play everybody's played the golf course a lot and you just kind of feel like you're learning every golf course and how to play it. You've got a little disadvantage, but this week everybody is kind of new to the place. I felt like get off to a good start and go from there.

It's a tricky place, you've got to get the ball off the tee here. Obviously it offers a lot of opportunities, but driving the golf ball here is extremely important.

Q. Did you see this kind of scoring here this week?

THOMAS BJORN: You know, when you play a practice round you always kind of -- I think you see the worst in golf courses and you kind of think, oh, well this is tricky and it's not going to be -- the par 5s here offer great opportunities, pretty much everybody in the field gets there in two. It offers great opportunities, there's a lot of wedges.

As I said, if you keep hitting it in the fairway you're going to have a lot of opportunities. We're coming off two weeks with extremely fast greens and almost borderline too fast greens. These are kind of the perfect pace for professional golfers where you can kind of be aggressive with some of them. So it offers a lot of opportunity here to shoot a good number.

Did I see that kind of scoring that we've had today? Maybe not, but I kind of knew that it was going to be a low winning scoring this week, it was going to be pushed up to the high teens I thought. That's the way it is out here, somebody's always going to shoot a good number.

Q. (No microphone.)

THOMAS BJORN: I wasn't in a good spot because I kind of -- you kind of get into a place where everybody says, oh, you're safe and all of a sudden you get into the Playoffs and you start seeing -- if you start looking at the projected score, you can get really tangled up in your brain, not focusing on the things you should.

Shot a really poor round first round last week and all of a sudden you can see yourself tumbling, you know. Having a bad week last week and then all of a sudden a bad one this week and you're out of the top 36.

For me, that was the goal and it was -- I think I just got my brain tangled up in numbers instead of just playing golf. Once it freed up on the weekend, and I felt Sunday last week I played probably the best golf I played in 10 years, I really did play very well. I felt like could I carry some of that into this week and I'll be in a good place.

Today wasn't as good as that, but I scored well today and it's nice for me to start seeing myself scoring, which has been a big problem the last few months is the scoring has not been as good as the golf. But today I scored well and probably got slightly more than I deserved, but sometimes you've got to take that.

Q. We talked in Morocco about the ultimate was to be in the top 36. How's that feeling?

THOMAS BJORN: Yeah, it's great. It's not -- I was speaking to Greg Chalmers about it, it's not an easy thing to do. You feel constantly under pressure, you feel constantly that people are watching what you're doing and they'll let you play if you play well, but if you're not playing very well, then you've got to do it a lot harder way.

It's been a long season, it's been a tough season, it's been a long time since I felt like this. I've been in a season where I've had some clear goals, I've had some clear things playing on my mind and it's nice, but it's also exhausting. We're getting to a place in the season where I'm glad I'm doing it, I'm glad that I've achieved what I wanted to achieve, but I'm also glad that it's over in a couple weeks. I need a -- I need to get away from it a little bit and actually give myself that pat on the back that I deserve for the work that I put in. That's why I

said to Greg, I said we've done all the hard work and what happens these next two weeks is bonus.

We're just going to take that for what it is and then come out next season and kind of be prepared to play because more and more guys are going to come from the main tour that can play. The way the game is going with the length that they hit it, that's going to come a lot of good guys out that are going to put everybody out here to the test. Just got to be ready when the season starts.