

ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTES
January 29, 2026



JUSTIN ROSE (-10)

Q. Justin, great round today, 10 under to be leading on Thursday. Can you just start with some thoughts on how pleased you are with your performance?

JUSTIN ROSE: Yeah, obviously delighted to kind of go out there and make the most of a perfect day. I mean, it was just such an enjoyable round of golf. You know, great views. It's one of my favorite venues on Tour. It's been a spotty venue for me through the years, I feel like I've either played great or not here, so nice to get off to a good start. North Course clearly is one that you want to try to make the most of and it's great to do that today for sure.

Q. You were tournament winner here in 2019. Is there anything from that year that you lean on or pull from when you're out there?

JUSTIN ROSE: It feels like a similar weather week to when I won, you know, and I feel like it was the kind of week that you had to kind of keep going low and keep playing well. I think I got it to 21 under par at some point during the tournament, so you know this tournament can also be a tournament where you feel like 9, 10, 11 under par's a really good week.

So it will be interesting to see how the course plays, if the greens get really firm on the South over the weekend makes it always tough. So it's going to be a balance of being able to play some great golf because of the conditions, but also respecting a major championship style track. So I'm excited for three rounds on the North, excuse me, on the South and just try to build some momentum with it all.

Q. How important were the conditions today? We had great weather.

JUSTIN ROSE: Yeah, the weather was stunning, it was like zero wind to start with, and when the wind did start blowing a little bit out of the northwest, it actually suits the North Course really well. Some of the shorter par 5s, the drivable par-4 eighth hole, they actually played down off the right. So that's a very comfortable wind for a lot of guys out here. So yeah, what wind there was was kind of suited to the golf course, too.

Q. Apologies for the hat.

JUSTIN ROSE: I can't even see, I don't have my glasses so you're good. Oh, it's a Goonies hat. Sorry, we're done now.

Q. When you have a round like that, are you just overjoyed with the round or are you upset about the last putt?



JUSTIN ROSE: Yeah, I mean, listen, I think it's funny how you can walk off frustrated for sure. I mean, I think the only thing it was just a little tricky putt and I second guessed it a little bit, played a little bit more break and tried to put it on a speed to let it break and it just kind of like kind of dove across the hole.

But no, listen, I made my share out there today. My process was fantastic. I feel like I managed my game really, really well today. I didn't feel like I played perfect golf so it's a good reminder that you don't always have to play perfect golf but it was good enough.

And hopefully there's things I can smooth out in the next few days as well to kind of hit a few more really quality shots off the tee. But yeah, great start.

Q. On that last putt, a couple locals were saying "breaks to the ocean, breaks to the ocean." Yeah, you know, is that sort of an old wives' tale or is that something you really take into account when you're looking at a putt and you're sure it's going to go left and it can go uphill?

JUSTIN ROSE: The ball never goes uphill, it's often just the illusion of what you think it's going to do, right? So I've been using my feet quite a bit more. you know, than -- I normally rely on my eyes, but I've been using my feet to kind of feel the slope a little bit.

And that was one especially because i felt like Jason Day was on a similar line, but I felt like he was more straight up the hill, but his putt peeled to the right, which made me play a little bit more break. I played my ball outside the hole, but I think like I said, I just maybe put it on a speed where I was letting it break, whereas I felt like maybe I could have played it outside and put a little bit more speed on it, too.

So anyhow, yeah, not to dwell on that one. I guess it just makes me -- you're going to miss some out there, you know, through course of 72 holes. You just got to keep running your process, keep making good decisions and keep you know the free rolling it. But yeah, I think yeah, no doubt, it's a little frustrating for this one on the last, yeah.

Q. Last thing from me, you've had some good starts, good first rounds here before. Have you learned anything from those experiences about how conditions can change and can tighten up, firm up, particularly when you get to the South?

JUSTIN ROSE: Yeah, for sure. I think often depends on the weather, right? If you have a really windy day on a Thursday or a Friday, that can really make one of the courses play a bit different to the other. I think we've got pretty similar weather for the first two days, so obviously it's about going out and trying to put two rounds together and see where you sort of fall going into the weekend.

But I hope the weekend gets harder, I hope it gets firm, I hope it gets tough, you know, because this golf course kind of suits that. You've got to be very strategic and, you know, hopefully if you're playing good golf, that will suit me.

