

ROUND 2 QUICK QUOTES
January 30, 2026



JUSTIN ROSE (-17)

Q. Previously had the 36-hole records here and you've surpassed again. How are you feeling heading into the weekend?

JUSTIN ROSE: Yeah, I mean, I'm feeling great. Obviously, yeah, that was two special rounds of golf. Today probably even more so just given it's hard to often follow up a low one. Obviously this week you kind of go from the easy course to the tough course but it was really kind of cool to keep momentum up out there.

I felt like decision making was spot on in terms of how I managed my game, and obviously every shot was not going to be perfect out there, but when I was in a little bit of trouble, the putter would come through for me or I'd be disciplined with when I was slightly out of position, really played for the fat of the green and, you know, give myself like a good two-putt opportunity from 40 feet. So I felt like all in all I managed the game -- managed the game really well more than played perfectly.

Q. So what is it about here, Justin? You know, fits your eye, it fits your game? How are you able to play such a difficult golf course so well?

JUSTIN ROSE: I mean, I don't know. I don't really know. I feel like in my career I've won on tough golf courses generally so that's my M.O. I would say. It's the kind of a place I enjoy. It's one of my favorite tournaments on Tour just the whole area, the whole atmosphere, the whole vibe. Whether it be Torrey Pines or Del Mar or the surrounding area, it's just one of those places I feel good.

Q. Do you bother looking at the scores on the South when you finished yesterday just to see what they were doing out of curiosity?

JUSTIN ROSE: Yeah, I don't kind of go into a deep dive, but I kind of saw the NC, NC, NC, NC, NC, NC, NC on the leaderboard, so by process of elimination, I kind of knew what I was facing going into today.

In some ways I was using that as extra patience obviously being 10 under already. It's a tough situation when you don't have a great day on the North and then you have to go and find a score on the South, you know. So I had the added benefit of being able to go and play the South I thought with the right mindset to play it, which is kind of respectfully.

Q. That's a good word.

JUSTIN ROSE: Yeah.



Q. What was your most important birdie early on?

JUSTIN ROSE: You know, just seeing a, you know, a read and a putt match up on No. 3, just early doors kind of, you know, made me feel like it was a continuation of yesterday where I putted really well and read the greens really well. I hit two beautiful shots into 4 and got a funny little lie on the back of the green and kind of duffed it out there to about eight feet.

Q. Back left pin?

JUSTIN ROSE: Back left pin, and holed that putt too. I felt like those putts back to back kind of really felt like OK, I've still got my aim.

Q. Justin, I think I saw the stat that six of the last seven winners here have played the North first.

JUSTIN ROSE: Yeah.

Q. Do you think -- I mean, when you obviously shoot as low as you did yesterday, but do you think there's an advantage to kind of getting the North set and then you've got three straight rounds on the South to kind of build something on that golf course?

JUSTIN ROSE: Yeah, it's nice to sort of compartmentalize it that way. I think obviously, you know, it also means that you've got to get out of the blocks, you've got to go and play the North well. You know, obviously sometimes I feel like if your game's scratchy you can maybe scratch out 1 under on the South and then day two make some. If you shoot 1 under by being a bit scratchy on the North, it's hard to then get the 7 on the South that you're going to need to get into contention.

So, you know, it swings and roundabouts on that one. But yeah, if you had your choice you'd play well on the North and then you would focus everything for three days, get the momentum going on the South, yeah.

Q. I was just going to say, attitude for tomorrow with what looks like will be a pretty decent lead?

JUSTIN ROSE: Yeah, I was kind of even half thinking about that the last couple holes. I sensed I was going to have a lead.

I felt like I was even thinking about it and I thought that actually I don't think anything changes. I'm not sure it's a golf course that if I was chasing I would be doing anything different to what I have to do tomorrow, which is what I was saying.

You go out and play this golf course as it's designed to be played. There's going to be pin



placements that you can't take on. You have to play it with some patience and respect and you're going to have to play well. You're going to have to play from the fairway. So yeah, whether I was four back or four ahead, like I don't think it actually changes the task that much tomorrow.

Q. Is this close to feeling a zone sort of feeling the last couple days?

JUSTIN ROSE: Yeah, I mean, it felt difficult today. We got on the clock, we got on the clock around No. 11 and I felt like the crowd got a bit sort of, you know, loud around that sort of -- that 13, 14 time and everything felt uncomfortable actually for sort of an hour, hour and a half.

I felt like I weathered that storm of the round where I felt like out of my routine, out of my flow, out of my out of the zone but kind of did a good job of managing my game for that period and obviously the two birdies to finish made it a really strong day.

