

ROUND 1 PRESS CONFERENCE
May 21, 2026

TOMMY GAINEY (-6)



Q. We have Tommy Gainey here after Round 1 out here in Morocco. You shot a 67, great day. I know you had some trouble on the par 5 on the last hole, but what has really been your confidence out here and just kind of coming up to this point this season?

TOMMY GAINEY: Well, you know, it's nice that I have a full year. I don't have the luxury like a lot of these other guys because they've made so many millions in career money. You know, 6.3 million doesn't go against 50 very good. So it's every week, I mean, I'm just straight to the wall. I'm just trying to make birdies, trying to win each tournament that I play in and hopefully it's enough to keep me in the top 36 and maybe challenge Stewart Cink, but he's on another level right now.

Q. Speaking of birdies, you made quite a few today. What is your favorite part of your game just playing out here in Round 1?

TOMMY GAINEY: Has to be the ball-striking. I mean, because tee to green you better ball strike it because if you get out of these fairways, you get in these bunkers, which is no fun, you get outside of these bunkers in the trees like I just demonstrated on No. 18 there, you're going to make bogeys. I just made one on the last hole, hit the worst shot I've hit all day. I just got to go back to it tomorrow, just keep hitting fairways, hitting greens and making a few putts.

Q. Tommy, you said coming off the first tee that you were gonna go get it. What felt good before the round?

TOMMY GAINEY: Everything felt good except for the iron game because it was my second time hitting 'em, so when -- and the first time in tournament play hitting these irons.

So there's a little bit of unknown there. I mean, how they going to react, how far are they going to go, are they going to spin, are they going to go high, are they going to go low. I mean, just a lot of different things that I had to work out with these irons. But they worked well today. The wind got up a little bit in the middle of the round and it was not fun.

But as far as the ball-striking is what got me today. I hit it really good except for one hole and I paid the price for it. But you know what, if I can hit it this good the next two days, I'll like my chances on Sunday.

Q. That's what I was going to ask you, confidence that these irons are giving you going into the next two days has got to be really good.



TOMMY GAINEY: Oh, I'm really confident in the irons now. After being under the gun and seeing how they worked out today, I feel really confident going in the next two days. But you know, it's golf. I mean, how many times have you hit it really good every single day? Not many. And this golf course is so tough that if you don't hit it good, you get really penalized quick, or punished.

Q. How was your day and sensations?

TOMMY GAINEY: Today was really good until the last hole. My par-5 play this year has been terrible. You can go all the bad words you want to bring up, but I'm terrible on par-5 play this year. But the rest of the holes, par 4s, par 3s, I'm doing really well on and I give the confidence and advantage there to ball-striking and putting. You know, I've just hit it so good today, I've hit it so good leading up to this tournament and I'm making putts. When you can make putts out here, you've got a chance to win on Sunday.

Q. How did today go, the emotions, and you said earlier that you were frustrated, it's golf, it's part of the game. What can you tell us?

TOMMY GAINEY: Well, today was really good. I shot 6 under. I mean, I was 7 going into the last hole, hit my worst shot of the day, end up making bogey. Not real happy about that, but you know what, there was a lot of really big positives today. I hit it really good, I made a lot of putts, hit a lot of good shots to end up being 6 under.

And this golf course, as I've said before in the other interviews, it's a really tough golf course tee to green. Got to be careful. If you're not hitting it in these fairways and you're missing these fairways in these bunkers, in these trees, you're going to make bogeys, you're going to make a lot of bogeys. I just kept it out of the trees today for the most part, in the fairways and made some putts, hit some really good shots, so I'm just trying to do the same thing tomorrow.

Q. And what were your first impressions coming here? You talked about golf being challenging.

TOMMY GAINEY: Oh, yeah. I didn't know what to expect being my first time in Morocco, but I'm definitely coming back. This place has been unreal. The golf course is good, the food's been really good, the people have been excellent, nothing short of fantastic, and I'm just so happy to be here playing a golf course like this and having a chance to win.

