

ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTES

July 9, 2026

MAX HOMA (-3)



Q. Max, how would you assess that opening round bogey-free 3-under?

MAX HOMA: Yeah, super solid. Frustrating because it felt like it should have been a lot more under par, but happy to keep it clean, happy with how the game felt. If I just was basing it how I executed, I was pretty pumped with how I played.

Q. Shot the last one over the green, didn't see the chip. Was it pretty straightforward? Was the lie OK?

MAX HOMA: Yeah, it felt like one of those you could make, but being on the up slope, obviously a little bit awkward. When I hit it, I thought I had a chance. Got a little bit of a right bounce. Yeah, happy to get the up-and-down. The golf course has a lot of opportunities to make birdie, but that 16 through 18 is a good finishing stretch. When you get through 15, it's nice to kind of coast through the end of that round.

Q. Played with Lucas, who shot 7 under, and William, the defending champion. What were the crowds like for you out there today?

MAX HOMA: Yeah, it was awesome. We had a ton of people especially in the beginning. I don't blame them, I think a handful of them went in to get some AC halfway through. It was good energy, especially again to start the round. It was pretty fun, that front nine buzz. Yeah, we had a blast.

Q. You went viral yesterday with your comments about the kid that was out on the golf course just validating your decision to come. What did the sign say? And you just mentioned the crowd, how nice was that to have that reception?

MAX HOMA: Yeah, I think the sign said, "We love Max Homa," which was pretty cool. That kid had no clue what I was coming to play, so he must have just been standing out there, which was pretty neat.

Yeah, the crowds were great. There's tons of kids around here. I think, no offense to anybody, but it's a lot more fun to see a bunch of kids than a bunch of people my age. We'll take 'em all, but it really warms your heart when you see a bunch of 7 to 12 year olds who I'm sure play a lot of golf.

That's what I did growing up, got to go to Riviera when I was a kid. There's nothing more fun than getting to see the people you watch on TV play in person. So it's cool to see how many of them came out. And they were vocal, seemed like they were really excited and I think that



gave our group a big boost.

Q. You mentioned this is the first time here. Just overall impressions as far as the course and just the city?

MAX HOMA: Yeah, it's awesome. We're staying downtown, it's been a blast. I've gotten to see a lot of this place now over the course of a few trips. It's just great. The golf course is phenomenal. Sad it's gotten so much rain.

But yeah, been texting with Justin Thomas, who's from here, and he's like jealous that we're here and I'm laughing because it's 12,000 degrees and he's in a short sleeve in Scotland. So that's kind of the energy we've got over here, just I think that kind of people put their roots are here and they have that kind of communal feeling. It just feels like everyone was rallying for everyone today, which is cool.

Q. What did Justin tell you about his hometown and this particular course?

MAX HOMA: He didn't say. He just told me if I wanted to go out to the bars on Sunday, his friends would take me. He didn't give me much else other than that. We were just chatting about the difference between Scotland and Kentucky.

Q. You mentioned the weather. It is a little bit of a warm one out there, but how are you adjusting with the play of the course being a little softer, but also the weather is a little warmer?

MAX HOMA: It's been easy for me. I didn't play here last year so I'm sure the guys who played here last year with how firm it was, probably tricky to get used to. For us, it's just what we know.

It was pretty easy out there. It wasn't super windy. We had spots when it got windy, but when it's this soft on the greens at least, it's reasonable.

The fairways, it is remarkable how fast they dried out. It's like kudos to the irrigation here and everything.

Yeah, for the most part, like I said, there's a handful of very tricky holes and there's another handful where you really need to go get it. Yeah, so it's like a nice little blend for an 18-hole experience and I always appreciate that.

Q. Do you feel like now that you've done it once in a tournament environment like you can understand like what you need to do for the next couple of days to make the cut?

MAX HOMA: Yeah, we definitely played it more aggressive off the tee than we had in the practice round and getting to see those lines and see where those balls ended up is nice because I feel a little bit more -- sometimes when you kind of like lay way back off the tees, if



you do want to press forward, you don't know exactly, you get uncomfortable, but today we got that out of the way so that's good.

I played the course fine enough today to shoot a lot under, so I just have to keep doing what I'm doing. When it's soft like this there's not a whole lot you have to learn. There's certain tricky lines like 18, but I still think we kind of know where that is.

Like I said, other than the holes that we were maybe a little unsure of before today, getting to play it and hit driver on those and figure out what the perfect line was is probably going to suit us pretty nicely for the next few days.

Q. You kind of mentioned it, seeing kids around and it's more of an intimate feel than maybe some of the other tournaments you've played. How does that change your perspective as a professional golfer?

MAX HOMA: I probably have to digest that one. I try not to pay attention, no offense to anybody, Thursday through Sunday because this is the part where I work.

But obviously you could feel the buzz and it is apparent there's more kids out there than normal, which is great. I think that is what I would probably take away from this is that everybody out here is making some sort of impression on the next generation of golfer, whether professional or otherwise. I think that's really cool.

Yeah, I know I'm sure a bunch of these kids live right around here and play this golf course, so getting to watch again your favorite golfers or the people you watch on TV play, they're going to have cool stories and stuff.

