ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTE
November 12, 2026

MAX HOMA (-3)

Q. Max, in with a 3-under 69 but the start was unusual, 3 over after two. What was going through your mind at that time and how do you recoup?

MAX HOMA: Yeah, I've just been very, very frustrating, obviously hit two -- 11's hard. It wouldn't have rocked my world as bad had I not just donated on 10.

Yeah, those shots just shock your system and you know you have to deal with it for four and a half hours before you can hit a ball on the range and hopefully sort it out. Obviously I thought I did a pretty good job. I drove the ball quite well after that, I don't think I hit another poor tee shot.

My caddie did a great job today, to be honest, especially right after that. Yeah, toughed it out, put up a pretty decent score for the most part. Never thought I'd finish at 3 under and think I left some out there. It was nice, but those are not -- one thing to start with a double, but that first driver I hit was so bad that it's still bugging me.

Q. What was the nature of the self talk at the time and how do you bounce back from that?

MAX HOMA: Yeah, I mean, the self talk's not really great. You do try to remind yourself that you've just -- I mean, you could berate yourself as much as you want, but you do need to hit the next one. Thought we did a great job getting back in position and try to make 5. Unfortunately, didn't.

Again, 11, another not good swing but it just felt like the world was spinning too fast for a moment. Yeah, I guess you just tell yourself if you're going to be out here, you might as well tough it out, find something that works and I found something that worked.

Q. Overall impression of the golf course, first time out there?

MAX HOMA: It's a great golf course. The back is significantly harder than the front. I will say starting early when you're on that wave is tough, just 10, 11 are brutal beginning holes.

But we got great weather. It's soft so it didn't play super hard. You've got to eat it up on the front. The first seven holes on that front are quite easy except maybe one of them. It's a really good golf course, reminds me a lot of Valero or TPC San Antonio. I really like it. Greens are unbelievable. Has some goofy greens, but they're big so I feel like if you can keep the ball on grass, you can figure your way to pars and obviously some birdies.

Q. Right on that top-60 bubble (inaudible) Signature Events start next year, Pebble, Riv. (Inaudible) events mean to you that need to kind of get those at least on your own number (inaudible)?

MAX HOMA: Yeah, I don't want to have to ask for sponsor exemptions. L.A. means the world to me so I would love to play in that event. Pebble, didn't get to play last year which was a pain, just always loved being up there. For me the whole West Coast is just a home event after home event.

I've been trying. I wasn't supposed to play this week. To be honest, didn't really want to. I'm gassed and older and everything hurts.

So yeah, I will not be playing next week so I'm giving myself one week to try to get in. Looked really good about two weeks ago and then everyone wrong played well.

Yeah, the events mean a ton. I also just made a goal, I wanted to finish in the 50 and at the end of the regular season I wanted to finish in the 60. So I'm just trying to at least give my goal a chance. Yeah, I mean getting into the Signatures or not is whatever. I'd obviously love to but at the end of the day, just trying to meet a goal here.

Q. I was going to say I think in Mexico you made a comment that that was going to be your last one. (inaudible) fulfill that goal?

MAX HOMA: Yeah, we ran the numbers and there was a very slight, small chance I even had to play Mexico to get in and now it's -- you know, just went comically down that list.

Q. (No microphone.)

MAX HOMA: What's that?

Q. (Inaudible) any credit to Blades?

MAX HOMA: No, no, no. It wasn't even -- you assume someone's going to win each week and pass you. I was not expecting Mexico especially is like five spots. Whatever, it doesn't matter. It just was a little unexpected as far as schedule.

Like I said, I didn't plan on -- I wasn't even sure I was going to play Mexico. Yeah, again, being here especially with the weather we're getting at least for a couple days is cool. I love Austin. We have some family that live here so it was an easy trip for me at least.

Q. What do you think of Blades?

MAX HOMA: Yeah, I played with him at John Deere. I told everybody after I played with him that as far as the young guys I played with -- I haven't played with all of them but the young guys I played with, he's the best one I think.

He just has a great mental game, but he's a phenomenal golfer. Still not even sure if he has a short game because he doesn't seem to use it when I play with him. He's a great young kid. Yeah, I told everybody, that was kind of my -- he's just got it all and I'm stoked for him that he's been playing so great.

Q. First off, welcome back to Austin as this is an inaugural Austin Championship. I wanted to ask you what are your thoughts on coming back to Austin and playing? I know there are Signature Events surrounding Houston, Dallas, San Antonio being one with the Valero Texas Open. Just what are overall thoughts of the city and how are you enjoying it so far this week?

MAX HOMA: Yeah, I love Austin. Like I said before, my wife's side of the family, we've got some who live here. We've come here quite a bit. I've always really enjoyed the downtown, people are great. So for me too it's an easy trip from the West Coast.

Yeah, this is a no-brainer trip. We were going to come here at some point regardless so nice to be back.

Q. Love to hear it. And then also my next question for you is how important is it for you to get these vital tournament reps in the offseason of golf? Obviously we're in the fall slate of the FedEx, but how important is that to your growth within the game but also just becoming a better player overall?

MAX HOMA: To be fair, it probably isn't at all because right after this I'm going to shut it down. We already have a pretty good amount of data on what I've got to work on to get better for next year.

I do love competing so it's nice to have another week. We're going to have a long break so it's nice to have another week to compete.

But my body's fairly banged up so I don't think this is doing a lot of good and I'm not really learning a lot. But like I said, we are competitive, I want to play, I want to win. So it's another chance to win a golf tournament and hopefully I can do that. But yeah, I mean, this is, you know, this is what we live to do. The practice is boring, this is enjoyable. So it's nice to get to do that out here.

Q. Max, I know you just learned of the passing of Dan Hicks, NBC broadcaster. What sort of interactions did you have with him and just his impact on the game and in sports in general?

MAX HOMA: Yeah, I've had my fair share of personal interactions with him. He's just a lovely person. All those guys who work in that space, their memories are amazing, they seem to know so much about your family.

I feel so bad for his and his friends. I know he's a very beloved man. We loved him. I have so many great memories of listening to him. I know that that will live on forever.

The beauty of his job is that we'll all remember that voice and the stories he told and the kind of experiences he gave us through calling golf.

It's very, very sad. I'm glad I've got my memories with him because they were always great. Our last dinner we had or the last time I went to dinner with him was awesome.

Very, very sad. Obviously shocking news. But I'm hopeful people -- his legacy's going to be awesome.