

# The American Express

Friday, January 17, 2025

La Quinta, California, USA

PGA WEST Pete Dye Stadium Course

## Justin Thomas

### Quick Quotes

**Q. Solid round today. What was working out there for you?**

JUSTIN THOMAS: Not a lot for the first bit, but yeah, I would say probably mentally I just stayed really patient and just tried to not get too frustrated. I feel like this course is just so gettable and every hole is a birdie hole, and when you're only 2-under through 12, that's pretty frustrating, and you feel like you're losing quite a bit of ground because you are losing quite a bit of ground. I know how these places are, and I know that just there's runs just waiting around every corner, but you have to be in the right frame of mind for it to happen. That's just kind of what I told myself the first two days, and just finally hit one of those runs there, so I'm proud of myself for that.

**Q. What does hitting a run at the end of today's round do for tomorrow and then inevitably Sunday?**

JUSTIN THOMAS: Well, it puts me in a better position. For a little while there it looked like I, not completely played myself out of it, but I was really far back. But that's how this tournament is, I just have to keep the pedal down. The Stadium's definitely a different animal, it's firmer, it's always a harder course in general before the green renovation, so I'm still going to be trying to make a lot of birdies, but it's just going to be a little bit more picking my spots as opposed to see pin, hit pin like the first two days.

**Q. What does your game plan look like for Stadium tomorrow and maybe what differs compared to your game plan for La Quinta and the Nicklaus Course today?**

JUSTIN THOMAS: It's still the same plan as trying to make as many birdies as possible. You have to be more precise and you have to be a little smarter. When greens are firm, you can't get away with those short sides, you can't get away with maybe taking on some risks that you don't get away with. I mean, that's the biggest difference for us, if you give us soft greens, it's pretty hard for to us make bogeys, because we're good at hitting our numbers, and we have good short games, so there's really no

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defense to it. But when greens are firm you have to golf your ball a little bit. Doesn't matter if it's short, a lot of par-5s, whatever you want to call it, you still have to be able to hit your numbers and control your spin and distance, so that will kind of be the plan tomorrow.

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