

**REX HOSPITAL OPEN
ROUND 4 INTERVIEW
June 5, 2022**



DAVIS THOMPSON (-17)

Q. Davis, you've had some time to let it all sink in and think about what actually happened today, so just walk me through how you feel.

DAVIS THOMPSON: I feel great. I just tried to stay patient all day. I faced some adversity on the back nine, made two bogeys, but then came back and finished it off, which felt great. And then it's just pretty surreal just looking down at it, but I'm just happy to be a champion.

Q. Walk me through your round today. Coming out, how did you feel? When those bogeys came up, how did you bounce back from those?

DAVIS THOMPSON: I felt great all day. I had a great start, birdied Nos. 3 and 4. Just had a loose swing on No. 6 that kind of cost me. Then bounced right back and birdied Nos. 7 and 9, which was great.

But then just put myself out of position on Nos. 10 and 13, which led to bogeys. But once again, I knew I was playing well. Just tried to put one foot in front of the other and I was able to birdie No. 15 and then that kind of calmed the nerves a little bit. Then made three great pars coming in.

Q. Walk me through coming up No. 18 fairway. You didn't really know you had a one-shot lead, you didn't really know where you stood, so when you looked over and saw it was one shot between you and other guys, kind of walk me through your mind there.

DAVIS THOMPSON: I thought I hit a great shot in here and it just got caught up in the rough. When I walked up, I saw I only had a one-shot lead, I was like, well, now you know what you need to do. I was able to lag it down there to about 3 feet and make it. It was just a sense of relief when it went in. I could relax and enjoy the moment.

Q. I know it's probably tough coming up short last week after having the 54-hole lead.

DAVIS THOMPSON: Yeah.

Q. But this week is completely different, you changed it. Can you talk through those emotions a little bit and how it feels to bounce back from that last week?

DAVIS THOMPSON: I think I said this yesterday, I felt like I played fine last week, it was just Harry [Hall] and Nick [Hardy] made more putts than I did. It's not like I was hitting bad

shots. It was just misreads. I knew if I kept preparing the right way and just keep giving myself looks that I was going to have a shot, because I knew I was playing well.

Q. You talked about you knew you were going to have nerves today, you said that yesterday, so coming out here this morning, did you have those nerves today?

DAVIS THOMPSON: Yeah, for sure. I felt it more after Nos. 13 and 14. That's when they really heightened, but I think being 2-under through four helped calm the nerves a little bit. Yeah, they were definitely there.

Q. This is your rookie season and you've got a Korn Ferry Tour win, this moves you inside the top 25. I mean, some guys are out here 10-plus years fighting for that. How's it feel? Is it confirming for you that you just did it so quickly?

DAVIS THOMPSON: It's pretty surreal. Last summer I got some PGA TOUR starts and learned a lot, gained a lot of great experiences, but I didn't play as well as I thought I could. I was just thankful for the PGA TOUR U ranking that got me into Final Stage (of the Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament) last year. I made like a 7-footer for par to even have the first eight starts. I go back and think about that putt a lot. I'm just very grateful to be here, and I knew what I was capable of and it paid off this week.

Q. If someone would have found you after you made that putt and said, hey, you're going to win in the first 15 events, would you have believed that?

DAVIS THOMPSON: I think so. I believe in myself. I think one of the biggest things out here is you've got to believe in yourself. You can't shy away from being great. I'm not saying I'm great by any means, but you have to have this confidence about yourself that you can do it and believe in your preparation, the work that you put in.

Q. Now that you have this win, we still have a lot of season left, so does this help you for the next couple events that are coming up?

DAVIS THOMPSON: I'm playing next week. Not really sure of my plans after that, but I'm just going to go down, try and prepare the best I can next week and hopefully find myself close to the lead heading into Sunday.

Q. I have one question not related to completely today, but noticed on the first tee you mark your ball with Milwaukee's best Sharpie just like Tiger used to. Is that why? Was he a big influence for you?

DAVIS THOMPSON: My roommate Spencer [Ralston] got me on that. He ordered like 20 of them and we were just messing around in the den one night and we were just marking golf balls, just doing whatever. I marked it and I was like this is pretty legit, so I've been using it for a while.

Q. Do you know that Tiger used to only use those to mark his ball, too?

DAVIS THOMPSON: Yeah, Spencer was telling me that. He did like all the research on it. It's the best Sharpie out there in my opinion.

Q. Talk about winning on your birthday, too. I mean, how good is that? If you could have dreamt it up, would this be it?

DAVIS THOMPSON: Yeah, it's a pretty good dream. It's been my best birthday yet. Became an uncle this week. It's just been a great week for my family, so it feels great.

Q. What motivates you? I mean, to get to the tour, what is that reason that's driving you to keep pushing to get there?

DAVIS THOMPSON: I just think it's the competitiveness in me. I want to be out there and I feel like God gave me gifts and talents to play golf, and if I can lead others into positive direction because of my faith and the way I play golf to advance His kingdom, that's kind of what does it for me. It's just something that I'm very grateful to be in this position and I have a lot of thanking to do tonight.

Q. Has it officially set in or is it like, okay, what just happened?

DAVIS THOMPSON: Yeah, I don't really know what happened. All I know is the putt went in, I signed my scorecard and now I'm talking to you guys.

Q. Which is a good sign.

DAVIS THOMPSON: Yeah, it's good.

Q. Last thing from me: You finally let out a little bit of fire there on No. 18. Have you been holding that in?

DAVIS THOMPSON: It was built up all day because I just tried to be calm, just be chill. Then once that putt went in, I knew like it was time to release some of that, that emotion built up.

Q. I would argue that you've been building that up all week.

DAVIS THOMPSON: Yeah, probably my whole life.