

PRE-TOURNAMENT INTERVIEW
October 26, 2022

THOMAS DETRY



MARK WILLIAMS: We would like to welcome Thomas Detry to the Butterfield Bermuda Championship in 2022.

Thanks for joining us for a little bit, Thomas. I know you played here one other time last year, top 25 I think. Just what was your first impressions of the golf course, and it must have suited your game, so what are you looking forward to this year?

THOMAS DETRY: Well, I actually remember watching the Tournament of Champions that used to be here, all the major winners playing together on TV. I remember watching that a long time ago, so I had some brief imagery of the golf course.

We had some not the best weather last year, I remember it being really, really windy, so it was a challenge and that's one of the great defenses of the golf course. But it's a great golf course. It sets up, it can be easy and it can be a tough challenge if the wind gets up.

MARK WILLIAMS: You just mentioned watching the Grand Slam I think when the four majors played. Do you remember what year that was and how old you were?

THOMAS DETRY: Obviously a long time ago. Actually, my caddie now who used to work for Ernie Els and Darren Clarke actually caddied here a couple years during the Grand Slam. A long time ago, so hopefully he can give me a couple of good hits.

MARK WILLIAMS: Yeah, I was going to say J.P. McManus is --

THOMAS DETRY: Fitzgerald.

MARK WILLIAMS: Fitzgerald, sorry. Not McManus, J.P. Fitzgerald. How long has he been caddying for you?

THOMAS DETRY: He's been caddying for me since May last year. I've been double back sharing actually with another U.S. caddie, so J.P.'s worked a little bit more in Europe for me and I had someone else, Barry William, working for me in the U.S., but this week a bit different.

MARK WILLIAMS: I kind of wanted to get you in here and talk about you're obviously a PGA TOUR rookie, you've had a great start to the season, first three events, played pretty solid. What are you looking forward to this season on the PGA TOUR and how much do you plan to play here?



THOMAS DETRY: I mean, obviously Europe, I love Europe. That's how I got on Tour and that's how I got inside the top 75 in the world thanks to Europe, so I'm to really grateful to be able to play on the European Tour as well, but PGA TOUR is I think where I want to commit now for the next couple of years. And this year it will be my full commitment to the PGA TOUR.

It's been great. I've had the chance to play already something like 14 or 15 PGA TOUR events, including majors, so I've had great experiences overall every time I've played the tournaments. Last year here, Mayakoba last year, and the start of my rookie season has been fantastic, so I'm really excited. The PGA TOUR is where I want to be. I went to school in the States as well, so I'm used to the lifestyle in America as well and it suits me.

MARK WILLIAMS: Having said that, the Ryder Cup is next year and I'm sure that's in the back of your mind. From a scheduling standpoint, how will you manage that? Will you go back and play a number of events in Europe?

THOMAS DETRY: It's a great question. I don't even know the answer. I'm playing it by ear right now. With the scheduling changing all the time, with me entering a tournament, not entering a tournament, I'm just taking it week by week. Hopefully I can get a win and it will make everything much easier, that's the goal. But right now, yeah, as I said, we're taking everything week by week. It's not easy with traveling, me still being based overseas, so we may be thinking of having a base over here as well. So yeah, lots of questions still to be answered, but right now as I said I'm committed to the PGA TOUR.

MARK WILLIAMS: As you say, good play takes care of a lot of things.

THOMAS DETRY: That's right.

MARK WILLIAMS: I just wanted to also mention while we're on that subject, Luke Donald, the Ryder Cup captain for Europe, is in the field this week. Have you played much with Luke? Have you had any conversations with him recently?

THOMAS DETRY: I've had a couple conversations with him, not really recently. Not really, actually. I'm looking forward to get to meet him a little bit better. I know that Europe has organized something called the Hero Open at the start of January next year, which is Europe versus GB&I. That will be early January and I'm planning on playing that if I'm making the team, which I'm very hopeful I will. I would love to play that and that will be kind of a Ryder Cup format, kind of get to know the guys with Dodo Molinari, Luke Donald involved, I think Thomas Bjorn will be involved as well. So I think it will bring back the European team and get us ready for the Ryder Cup next year.

MARK WILLIAMS: You've played 12 rounds on the PGA TOUR this season, a number of events before that, but in those 12 rounds this season, what have you seen of your game that gives you confidence to continue on with the form that you've had?



THOMAS DETRY: Well, I've seen in my game that my driving's been really good. It's been performing well, so hopefully I can keep that up. This week is again bermuda everywhere, so you want to keep it on the fairways because you get pretty much no control out of the rough from the bermuda rough. That will be key.

Another key I think is rest. I've been traveling a lot. I played well in Vegas, but I ran out of steam at the end of the tournament on Sunday. I think I shot over par and I just didn't have any more fuel in my body. Lots of rest will be key, especially with all the traveling. And that's it. As I said, hit fairways.

MARK WILLIAMS: I believe you had a newborn maybe five or six months ago?

THOMAS DETRY: Correct, yeah.

MARK WILLIAMS: How's life changed for you and what sort of perspective has it given you as a father now?

THOMAS DETRY: It's the best thing that's ever happened to me. I didn't know I would have so much love for something that I never met before. It's been fantastic.

And my wife is all in on this American adventure as well. I told her when I signed up for the PGA TOUR I knew, OK, there was the possibility we could go play in America. I told her that it would not be -- I'll need my family there traveling with me and she said she was all in for it, so she's been really helpful and she's been great at helping me.

MARK WILLIAMS: You mentioned having a base in the U.S. Where are you located? Where are you sort of looking?

THOMAS DETRY: We are actually looking at the DR, Dominican Republic. Have you been to Puntacana?

MARK WILLIAMS: Yes.

THOMAS DETRY: We play a tournament there.

MARK WILLIAMS: I've spoken to you about that before.

THOMAS DETRY: Exactly, right. We've got great friends and a great relationship with Jay Overton, who is the tournament director at Puntacana Resorts. So we actually are thinking of maybe getting a base there. But as I say, we're still playing it by ear now.

MARK WILLIAMS: It's funny you mention the DR. Being here in Bermuda, another island, you've had experience in both places. So I appreciate your time.

Q. So what do you need to play well here? What have you been working on? What do



you need to play well here?

THOMAS DETRY: I haven't been working on many things, to be honest, because my game is in great shape. I've been mainly resting since I've been traveling quite a bit. It was nice to have a week off last week, so I'm feeling refreshed now and I think what will be key.

Obviously it all depends on the weather conditions. If it gets windy out there, I think all the knock off shots and kind of little stingers will be key. If it's mild, just I think hit lots of drivers, hit fairways and roll some putts.

Q. What were your thoughts from today?

THOMAS DETRY: I haven't played yet. I'm in the pro-am this afternoon. I've just warmed up, so I'm curious to see how the course is playing. I haven't played the course yet because I arrived last night. So I'm really looking forward to seeing what the course is like, but from what I've heard it's in great condition, greens are rolling really nice and hopefully the weather holds.

Q. I heard guys were bombing it over the driving range. Were you one of the guys?

THOMAS DETRY: Exactly right, I was one of the guys. I hit one drive and it went over the range. A throng of people going just behind the net, so I was like, I'm going to take it easy, don't injure anyone.

Q. Do you consider yourself a good wind player?

THOMAS DETRY: Yes, yes.

Q. Do you enjoy the challenge?

THOMAS DETRY: I enjoy the challenge. We almost had a hurricane blowing through here last year and I remember shooting 4 or 5 under and moving nicely up the leaderboard. so I consider myself, I embrace the challenge. One of the things that Coach Small, my coach at University of Illinois, always told us, when the weather conditions are bad, like you almost losing half of the field already because half of the field is already abandoning. So I love the challenge, it's fun.

