

1st ROUND INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT: TIGER WOODS
Thursday, January 23, 2014

Q. Tiger, do you want to just start off talking about your round today?

TIGER WOODS: Well, even par's not too bad, but I didn't play the par 5s worth a darn today. I played them even par, parred all of them. Obviously that's paramount to try to get any kind of scoring on the South course is you've got to take care of the par 5s because there's not a lot of holes you can make birdies here. So I didn't do that, so subsequently I didn't finish under par.

Q. Is it playing tougher than you expected?

TIGER WOODS: No, actually it wasn't. We figured that the TOUR might soften it up and they did, they did. The balls were holding and a couple wedge shots were spinning back, which yesterday they were bouncing forward, bouncing as high as the flag. Today we didn't have to worry about that. Mid irons, yes, it bounced over the green and you had to think about it a little bit, but it wasn't like it was yesterday and it certainly wasn't like it was on Monday. Some of the guys that played on Monday said it was even harder than it was yesterday. They've softened it up as the day's gone on, but I think it's just get us through the cut and then see what happens.

Q. Is there a number you need tomorrow do you think for the North that you're looking at?

TIGER WOODS: Well, I mean, even par right now is probably going to put me maybe probably about one or two shots under par on the South course, below average, and I think probably over the North course the average is probably about 3-under par, so somewhere around there. It's got to be playing right around three shots easier, so I'm going to have to go out there and get it a little bit tomorrow to not be so far behind come Saturday or Sunday.

Q. Are you surprised with what Pat did today?

TIGER WOODS: Why? He grew up here. This was his home course, he's played it more times than anybody. Well, any TOUR pro certainly for sure. It's neat having his dad, Mr. Perez, out there on the first tee announcing us every day. He's done it since our Junior World days and all the way through professional golf.

Q. Anything about your game that you laid off today?

TIGER WOODS: I didn't feel that rusty, I felt that I hit a lot of good shots. I hit probably three loose ones out there, which that's just the way it goes, but it wasn't

that bad. As I said, I needed to take care of the par 5s today. If I play those normal, I'm 2, 3-under par and all of a sudden it's a pretty good round.

Q. (Inaudible)

TIGER WOODS: Yeah, just trying to get it down there, you know, trying to bust it down there a little bit trying to get a little bit closer. It was playing a little bit longer today and obviously didn't get the ball in the fairway.

Q. Using that same driver that you were using at Sherwood?

TIGER WOODS: Yeah, same one.

Q. Are you still in the process of getting used to it?

TIGER WOODS: No, I'm able to draw this driver so much better, which is nice. I still need maybe just a little more work on being able to cut it. Sherwood sets up for a little draw, draw driver, and some of these holes here too as well, but the North course, you're going to have to cut a few and maybe need to do a little work on that.

Q. I didn't see it yesterday but it seemed like there was a number of little short game shots you and the other boys where it was bouncing.

TIGER WOODS: Well, today's different though. As I said, it's softer. Some are bouncing, some aren't. Now it's kind of getting back to what we're used to, you know, when you're playing on poa. Some balls check, some balls just explode. Yesterday they were all just zipping. As I said, it was playing like an Open. Today it got back to playing --

Q. Like PGA?

TIGER WOODS: Yeah, but a firmer version of this event, how about that?