

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT: NICK FALDO & EDUARDO ROMERO
Friday, June 6, 2014



PHIL STAMBAUGH: It took a little while to get the first round in, but we got it done. Five-under, you equal the low score at Top of the Rock with Tom and Andy. Just a couple thoughts about the play today. Nick, your first time in the Legends.

NICK FALDO: Yeah.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Just some thoughts from each of you about the day.

NICK FALDO: Well, (inaudible) was a long hole. That was quite a strenuous 18 holes on a par 3 course. No, we enjoyed it. I mean, my partner, he came right out of the gate and had a great par on No. 2. So we felt good right after that, so that put us in a good frame of mind all the way. That was a nice start. And we dovetailed pretty well. Foursomes is a pretty good shot to come out and play when you haven't played competitive golf. Then we started really well for the four-ball starting birdie, birdie, par, birdie, birdie, so that was good. Then we both messed up six. I went long in the water and he had went long up against the rocks. Didn't have many options there, so that was -- all in all, that was a good day.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Eduardo, do you want to talk about your putt at No. 3? Seemed like it was like 40 feet.

EDUARDO ROMERO: Yes, it was fantastic, fantastic putt. I think a two-putt was a good deal for the team, then I hit it perfect. Nick showed me the line, over here, okay? He's a good putter, it was a nice two. Very good today, very good. And then made one mistake both, No. 6. But anyway, long way to go and we're ready for tomorrow, too.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Nick, your first time here at the Big Cedar Lodge Legends of Golf. Some thoughts about you've done a lot of TV coming here to play this year and partnering with Eduardo.

NICK FALDO: Well, coming here, I was going to have a week off. Been doing two months solid TV, so I thought have a week off, go fishing quietly. Well, maybe I can come to this house, golf and fishing, that was a temptation. No, I wanted to come and support the event because this is what I believe in. My Faldo Design Group as well because we've got to start putting in nine hole golf courses, 12 hole golf courses. You have to break down the barriers of every hotel says they want a championship golf course and it's got to be par 72, and we shake our heads and go, we can build you a really nice 12 hole golf course but you haven't got the land for that. So I hope this will showcase that nine hole par 3s or 12 hole short courses is an important way to be thinking now. Time constraints on the family makes it much more viable to

come and play, and dad, mom, whoever the golfer in the family isn't out there for six hours and lost for the day. This seems like a great place where you can bring the family and everybody plays golf together.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Okay. We'll go to questions, just raise your hand.

Q. How did you guys get paired up in this event? Who picked who?

NICK FALDO: I picked him.

Q. For obvious reasons?

NICK FALDO: Well, I entered late so many of the players were chosen, so once I heard Eduardo was available, I thought a-ha.

Q. Have you guys been friends for a long time?

NICK FALDO: Yeah, season campaign as European Tour. How long have you played the European Tour?

EDUARDO ROMERO: 25 years.

NICK FALDO: I did the other 10 years. So yeah, we've known each other but never played in anything like this.

Q. Nick, you haven't played a lot of competitive golf like you said. Are you able to practice much or are you surprised you played this well?

NICK FALDO: No, my practice is minimal. I'm going simply on the fact that if I can hit one good golf shot, why can't I do it again. That includes on the practice range as well. So no, I really haven't done -- as I said, I've just done two months pretty much solid TV. So I sneak out and do a little bit of practice but not a lot. Like many as we get older, we're all nursing injuries. I've got a supra-spinatus that's injured, so I can't hit balls like I used to. If I do anything close to two hours, then I'm walking around like this for the next three days so my game is limited. It's nice to just get out and try and do it. I've got mini golf season coming up late in the year. Greenbrier gave me an invite, Scottish Open gave an invite, I'll play the Open Championship, so that's my mini season of three, so that's what I'm gearing up for.

Q. How much do you miss practicing? You were a guy who in your prime practiced a lot.

NICK FALDO: Well, to be honest, yeah, I would like to get back into it. I had a little period there about three years where I really wasn't interested in golf. When you're not playing how you used to play and fortunately you get to a different stage in your

life and think, hey, I just enjoy playing golf, I love playing golf, so it doesn't matter what I do. It's not going to change anything, it's just nice to go out. And the curiosity thing, yeah, can I hit one more shot close intentionally. So that's the fun of it when you conjure up a shot.

Q. You made a good chip today?

NICK FALDO: Yeah, my little 9-iron I hit up the fifth hole today, that was nice.

(Inaudible)

NICK FALDO: You do all your calculations and you hit it to three feet and you go that's all right.

EDUARDO ROMERO: So we had a couple good ones.

Q. Nick, are you aware of any other courses that are being built like this or have you heard of any other championship level par 3s?

NICK FALDO: For the same price? Yeah. These are some expensive rocks, wow. Faldo Design could have given a lot difference price. Once we get some plastic rocks and cut the molds, we could have done this for one-tenth, could have done it for a few fishing rods.

No, I don't think there's anything quite like this going on in the world. Everybody builds golf courses with very tight budgets these days.

Q. Do you expect to see some more nine hole, I mean not the expense --

NICK FALDO: That's what we're doing. I'm doing a couple projects, you know, across the world. In Italy, for example, we're going to put nine holes in there and things like that. Yeah, there's a couple of other projects, as I said, a couple other projects where we're cramped for land. If I could just -- as I explained at the start, the owners, the developers are so hell bent on, as I said, we want championship 72 holes. We go no, we can really make something really cool, just 12 holes and we go again or whatever, find loops or something but they're better holes. That's what I'm saying. I hope this will. The fact a Champions Tour event is playing this style of golf, I hope it makes developers think, okay, I've got just about enough land for nine, because you can do nine par 3s on a severe piece of land, you can find a way to make it happen.

Q. Nick, has the television career been about what you thought it would be or are you enjoying it even more than you thought you would?

NICK FALDO: Yeah, this is my 10th season, time flies. So I enjoy it, I do enjoy it. I

still get a buzz especially going to the Masters for CBS and it still feels like a major for me even though I'm sitting in the tower. You can probably tell by my voice I love playoffs, I get excited with those as well. I love Sundays when the guys are under pressure playing. I'm enjoying the gig. It's a great privilege to have that seat next to Jim Nance, to be honest. For a foreign sportsman to have that position on a national network in America is very much an honor, I would say, yeah.

PHIL STAMBAUGH: Good luck tomorrow at Buffalo Ridge.