

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW: FRED COUPLES
Friday, August 21, 2015



Q. Freddie, solid start. Were you happy the way the round ended up today though?

FRED COUPLES: Yeah, I was very happy. I hit a bad shot on 7 and made bogey, but the rest of the holes, the greens were pretty firm and if you didn't hit it straight up in the air and put some spin on it, you weren't going to get that close to the hole. But as the round went on, some of the pins were accessible and I birdied a few holes, made a couple putts. I think the birdies on 10 and 11 kept the round where I got under par and stayed there. I never par 18 here, so it really doesn't matter, so I made par. I mean I never birdie 18.

Q. Lanny Wadkins and I noticed something, I said early on in the show that we see a very focused Fred Couples. Would that be the case right now for this week?

FRED COUPLES: Well, I'm focused because I'm trying to -- I don't know if it's making a bigger swing change, I'm trying to take, for me, the club more straight back or inside and it's really hard. So every shot's important that I take a practice swing and think about that. But, you know, I always feel like I'm semi focused. I just like to screw around with Chaney when I'm not hitting a shot and tease him. I want to play well. I'm in a good place because I played three times well the last month and a half that I've been playing, so I feel like I should continue it and today was a good day.

Q. Given the situation here, kind of where I was going, do you feel more pressure to perform well here in your hometown?

FRED COUPLES: I don't think anyone could say no. Some of the putts you want to make and you want to get going, but I do like playing here. I think my first time really was on this tour in the U.S. Open where I lost to Langer and I was playing so well. So if I'm playing well, I feel pretty good about it. But if I get a little edgy, it just makes it more edgy because you're not playing to a good standard and you're in your hometown and it just makes it harder. But the idea is people come out and we get good weather and I love the tournament and love the way that Boeing takes care of us and I'll play here as long as I can.

Q. You had good putts on 4 and 5, you had eight feet and six feet, right? You had good shots in there?

FRED COUPLES: It could have been better, but I made a couple of nice six- and eight-footers for pars. I laid up for the first time ever on whatever they call that hole, I don't even know, 15, 14, and I had the easiest shot in the world. I fatted it on the front edge and made about an eight-footer for par there. I mean, it could have been better in a way that I hit the ball pretty well, but the greens were beautiful. They were rock hard, which I think, you know, everyone kind of likes. It's a lot better than going out here and shooting 67 and losing ground. Larry Mize, that's a phenomenal round, and you can tell because 15th, 18th place

is 1 under and that's a long cry from 67.

Q. Just because it's cooler today and were the balls traveling as far?

FRED COUPLES: You know, it got to be nice there. We all took the sweaters off and I think the ball started carrying more. It's just the greens are really, really firm and it's hard to get the ball real close to the hole unless you've got a perfect yardage with a minor wedge. But tomorrow we tee off a little earlier, maybe the greens will be a little more attainable to stop the ball. But maybe they don't water them and maybe they make it hard, I don't know. But I liked it today though. I felt like a 69, am I tied for third or fourth?

Q. Second.

FRED COUPLES: You know, 69s here before were really nice scores. They didn't put you in second place though.

Q. How much does it help having a home crowd behind you, Fred?

FRED COUPLES: Oh, always. It's a little different than maybe Seahawk games where that's a huge advantage, but it's fun. I saw a lot of people out there that I know, and I can't go up and say hi to them. If you go say hi to two people, you've got to say hi to 22 people and then you've got to say hi to everyone, and you are out there trying to focus a little bit, but it's nice.

Q. Why did you lay up on 14?

FRED COUPLES: You know, because the tee was on the back tee and I didn't think I could really get a 3-wood to the green, and a driver, I'm not comfortable hitting a driver there. So I think the next couple days maybe they'll move the tee to that next level. But I just was uncomfortable to hit driver there, I don't know how I would ever stop it on the green. But I had 85 yards, perfect, and I got lucky to get on the front part of the green and I two-putted from 90 feet. I didn't want to make bogey there.

Q. The putter used in the 59, that was a (indiscernible) for a couple years?

FRED COUPLES: Maybe not two years but for a while. I've been known to leave clubs around and I left that one there and then saw it, and then we just went out and played and I left mine in the room and then took that one out there and used it yesterday for good measure and I putted well yesterday. And today was, you know, it's easy to line up. I just used a new one because I'm going to get rid of this belly thing and go shorter and I want to use that mallet, but I didn't think I could give up on it after shooting 59. It's in my bag tomorrow.

Q. You have a good feel for it?

FRED COUPLES: Well, I've used it a long time. The grip's really worn out, it's slippery, but I can get through two more days with it.

Q. Next year.

FRED COUPLES: I'm just going to cut this putter that I'm using down and it will be the same everything. I have to start practicing, but it will be the same kind of putter, just cut shorter, no drastic measures.

Q. You played the old fashioned way before.

FRED COUPLES: I don't want any of my old, old putters. Plus, it helps me stand a little taller. I don't bend over, that's why I really use it.