

**ROUND 1 INTERVIEW: RORY McILROY**  
**May 5, 2016**



**Q. Tale of two nines, Rory. Could you discuss the front versus the back?**

**RORY McILROY:** Yeah, it sort of was a tale of two nines. As I said in the press conference yesterday, I've been working a lot on the range and I was sort of still in range mode on the front nine there. I didn't really have my scoring head on. I was thinking about my golf swing and just trying to make good swings at it and I sort of got caught up in that a little bit.

So I said to myself on the front nine, okay, let's try to play with a little more freedom and maybe not think so much technically, so it seemed to help. Need a bit of work on the range because I had a lot of misses left. I need to sort of sort that out. Happy with the come back. I definitely would have taken 73 standing on the first tee over there. Just a matter of doing some work and coming out tomorrow and hopefully being a little more ready to score and play golf rather than just think about my swing on the course.

**Q. What are you try to sort out with the swing?**

**RORY McILROY:** I was getting it sort of a little bit behind me on the takeaway at Augusta and then setting it sort of deep. I usually, when you look at my swing from down the line, I set it sort of through my right shoulder and it's setting sort of somewhere in my right biceps. Coming into that ball I was feeling like the club was laying down a little bit and I sort of had a fear of it going left at Augusta so I was holding onto a lot of shots and that was creating quite a lot of inconsistency with how far I was hitting the ball. There was a lot of rotation going through impact. So I'm trying to get it more so I'm setting it a little more vertical so when I come down again, it's more on the plane and I'm able to keep the clubface square longer through impact.

It's just something that I've actually, I was working on something at the start of the year and I've just overdone it, so I just have to try and get it back to where I want it to be. It's a work in progress, but it feels better than what it did at Augusta. I feel like I can release the club a little bit more. Even though there's a few that are still going left, at least I know what the problem is and I'm working hard to try and fix it.

**Q. You talked yesterday about limiting your practice over the past few weeks getting ready for the rest of the year. Was there something inside of you that kind of knew I'm going to have to grind through this first rust?**

**RORY McILROY:** Yeah, I think so. I knew I was going to have to sort of play my way into the next couple of weeks. With the nine holes that I played on Tuesday and the pro-am yesterday, I felt, it actually feels pretty good. But it's all different. It's always different when you get a scorecard in your hand and it really matters. I started off pretty well today but then there was just some shots where I was thinking so much about the swing rather than

actually the shot that I was trying to hit and that was really the problem for the front nine. I didn't feel like I did that much wrong, but you don't have to on this golf course for it to punish you. But I played the front nine a bit better, and if I can play a little bit more like that over the next three days, then I can definitely get myself back into the tournament.

**Q. Rory, with the conditions supposed to warm up and dry up, do you think scoring conditions are going to be good for you to kind of make -- you like where you are?**

**RORY McILROY:** Yeah, I mean, I would much rather be in red numbers but I'm much happier where I am now than I was three hours ago, I guess. I just need to go out tomorrow and shoot a good second round, something in the 60s, get myself back into the tournament going into the weekend. I wasn't very happy with how I played today but I'm happy with my comeback, and at least I showed a little bit of character out there and didn't let it get away from me. Giving myself an opportunity to go out there tomorrow and shoot a good number and try to get myself back into contention.

**Q. The incident on 6, did it kind of catch you offguard?**

**RORY McILROY:** Yeah, it was sort of weird. That's never really happened to me before. Just it was one of those things.

**Q. Did you know it was a spectator right away?**

**RORY McILROY:** Yeah, I mean, it was a golf ball with an ear plug stuck on it, so it was sort of strange. Charlotte's finest sorted it out and got him off the property, thankfully.