

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW: ANDREW LOUPE
May 6, 2016



Q. Your second share of the lead after round one this season. Just wonder how much that maybe helped you heading into today's round?

ANDREW LOUPE: Experience is always nice. Been in this position before, so I guess it's something I can draw off of, think back and learn from mistakes that I've made and hopefully keep it clean out there.

Q. You said there's still a long way to go, you're not getting carried away, are you? How do you maintain the composure for what is now a huge weekend?

ANDREW LOUPE: It's halftime. (Inaudible) I know that there's a lot of good golfers right behind me. Just do my best to stay in this very moment.

Q. You mentioned (inaudible) yesterday how well you were able to do that?

ANDREW LOUPE: I thought I did a pretty good job. The course is tough, there's some breeze out there and a couple tough pins. I definitely let some shots slip where I know that I probably shouldn't have, but I thought I did a good job of not letting it get to me, whereas in the past it would have and I was able to bounce back.

Q. You holed some great putts yesterday, that was a big talking point really for your round. (Inaudible)

ANDREW LOUPE: It feels the same. Not as many of them went in but I'm still rolling good putts. That's just golf, some days they all go in, some days they don't, some days some of them. You've just got to keep sticking to your routine, your practice and continue to just trust your stroke.

Q. Last year you picked up a win on the Web.com. How much will that experience help you as you chase your first PGA TOUR win?

ANDREW LOUPE: I think a lot. A pretty similar course, a longer golf course, it's playing tough like this one is this week. I can draw from that because I closed before and just looking for a fun weekend.

Q. (Questions about Phil Mickelson.)

ANDREW LOUPE: I haven't even noticed yet but we played Sunday at La Quinta, we played together Sunday. He's a great guy, we had a good time out there. Golf ball doesn't know who's hitting it so just keep doing my thing and, like I said, one at a time.

Q. Andrew, I saw the fist pump at 9, that was a great birdie after that three-putt at 8. Your thoughts on how you played today?

ANDREW LOUPE: I thought I played solid. I didn't hole the putts that I holed yesterday but they're rolling off the putter face well. Just got to keep hitting them like I want to. Back there on 9 that's just a really hard -- that's a tough hole. It's right back into the wind and it was just nice to bounce back after that mistake on 8, get an easy hole where they kind of give you one and I screwed it up a little bit. I shook it off and I was just proud of that.

Q. You made a lot of putts today for pars that were like five, six-footers so the flat stick is really good?

ANDREW LOUPE: Yeah, I've been working with a chalk line, I've just been doing my same stuff that I always do. The greens are perfect. If you're able to read them right and get your speed, they're going to go.

Q. Thoughts on the course setup today? It seemed like it was a little bit more difficult and the greens seem to be picking up speed?

ANDREW LOUPE: It was cold this morning, 40-something degrees. It got pretty windy out there. Moved a couple tees up on the par 3s for the most part. That's a grown man's golf course. It's tough, it really is. A lot of long par 4s. I've just got to keep it steady and just keep it moving.

Q. Your thoughts going into the weekend now minus 8?

ANDREW LOUPE: Hit the first tee shot, that's about it. I'm just going to keep doing my thing. Nothing changes. I've got a game plan. I'll check the wind direction tonight and if I need to adjust it all I will, but for the most part I'm just sticking to what I'm doing.

Q. Not quite the energy as yesterday 65, but Andrew, you still posted a red number today. What was the difference in today's round compared to yesterday?

ANDREW LOUPE: I holed a couple more putts yesterday, I may have driven it a shade better early in the round. Back-to-back three-putts, that hurts, but I was proud of the way I played No. 9 after that. It's a tough course. You're not going to make all those putts every day and I know that, and I knew it coming into today that it's tough to back up a round like that. But proud of the way I hung in there. I thought 1 under was a pretty good round.

Q. This is interesting after you shot 65 yesterday, you said hey, it's just the first quarter. Now after two rounds at least in contention, does anything alter for you mentally or emotionally as you enter into the weekend?

ANDREW LOUPE: Not at all. I mean, first quarter, now it's halftime. 36 holes left, a whole bunch of really, really good golfers right behind me. Who knows, maybe I won't have the

lead but that really doesn't matter. I have a game plan. I'll check the wind direction tonight. If I need to make any adjustments I will, but for the most part I've got a feeling I'm just going to stick to what I'm doing.

Q. Well, Andrew, a great birdie at the last to shoot 1 under. What are your thoughts after your second round?

ANDREW LOUPE: It's tough out there. It's playing long, good bit of wind. There's some tough pins. It just felt good to birdie the last after three-putting 7 and three-putting 8. It just felt like I could kind of maybe build a little bit of a lead. And No. 9's a monster. Just proud of the way I finished. I didn't make every putt today, I didn't make as many as yesterday, but I stuck to the game plan. I thought 1 under was a pretty solid round out there.

Q. What's your key this weekend to get it done and just ultimate play well and stay in contention?

ANDREW LOUPE: Probably staying in the present, in that exact moment. That's what I've been focusing on the most. I have a game plan off the tee, but really just continuing to just be myself and sticking to that game plan. If the wind changes directions a little bit, you know, I'll address that if I need to adjust, but I think it should be pretty similar. I mean, man, I'm just looking forward to it.

Q. And you've won before, you've won on the Web.com Tour. I'm just wondering if that experience at all helps you this weekend?

ANDREW LOUPE: Absolutely. It's a similar style of golf course, very tough, it was long and it was windy. It only took 5 under to win. The competition out here is obviously a little stronger but it just feels good to draw back on the ability to close. But that's far away. I mean, I really just need to be focused on what I need to do out here in my practice routine. Get a good night's sleep and do everything I can to hit that first tee shot.

Q. You've been at the top of the leaderboard again headed home today, got to make you feel good, and then as well as your style of golf, the length of your game has got to give you confidence going into the weekend, too, knowing that (inaudible) it should work to your advantage?

ANDREW LOUPE: It does. Some of those longer par 4s that are back into the wind, you know, I had maybe 6- and 7-irons into where some of those guys are hitting a longer club and I'm able to maybe attack the flag a little bit more because I can stop the ball. There's other guys out here that can really move it as well, I know that. I just need to stick to what I'm doing, just stay in the present, keep playing golf.

Q. You touched on it a little bit but being at the top of the leaderboard again today, how does that change your or does it change your mentality heading into tomorrow?

ANDREW LOUPE: I don't think so. I mean, we're just halfway through. 36 more holes, I mean, that's a lot of golf. Leader boards change every minute, every second they change. Names flip flop, numbers flip flop. I've just got to stick to what I'm doing, try to keep my head down. I'm going to make mistakes in the next 36 holes, I realize that. But staying composed after that, I think that's a big deal.

Q. What's the rest of the day look like for you, how much are you going to keep your eyes on the leaderboard or are you just going to tune it off?

ANDREW LOUPE: Right. I'm going to go get something to eat. I'm going to do probably an hour or so of practice and I'm going to go to the gym and I'll probably check it later on. There's just so much golf left, that's far away. Sunday's a long way away. So I'm just going to try to do everything I can to give myself the best chance heading into tomorrow.

Q. Talking about that chance, you mentioned it, the three-putts at 7 and 8, but then at 9 to get that birdie. What kind of -- how does that kind of help the mindset going in?

ANDREW LOUPE: Yeah, that was big. The putt on 7, that was a really, really tough putt. That's more on the iron shot there. 8 was not. I've got to at least get that thing down in two. I think in the past I don't think I would have had the ability to focus on what's going on on 9 tee. And that set up for me, I was able to hit a really good drive and I just knew, you know, I can't let what just happened affect what's about to happen. I was just proud of that.