

**ROUND 2 INTERVIEW: RORY McILROY**  
**May 6, 2016**



**Q. 69 today here for Rory McIlroy. I imagine the frustration given that finish, your assessment of that?**

**RORY McILROY:** Yeah, obviously not nice to finish the way I did with two bogeys but the rest of the card looks pretty good. I got it going around the middle of the round there and a lot of shots of much better quality than I did yesterday. I feel like I improved from yesterday and working a little bit on the (inaudible.) Felt a little better for me out there today. It's a step in the right direction.

**Q. (No microphone.)**

**RORY McILROY:** Yeah, this was nice. I was worried for a minute that it wouldn't actually get to the hole but it's so fast towards the water, it looked online the whole time and it was nice to see (inaudible.)

**Q. (No microphone.)**

**RORY McILROY:** Yeah, I hit a really good tee shot and then hit a lot of nice shots like that today (inaudible) and then on the other sort of par 4, the 14th, so my touch feels pretty good around the greens.

**Q. (No microphone.)**

**RORY McILROY:** Yeah, that was nice, a little 6-iron trying to keep it under the wind. It chased up the green really nice there. When it's good, it's very good, and when it's bad, it's still not quite what I would like but it's a step in the right direction. I'm here for the weekend, I feel like I can put together (inaudible.)

**Q. (No microphone.)**

**RORY McILROY:** Yeah, I mean, what am I, 6 behind? I think I was 9 back going into the weekend in 2010. Even last year I think I played a 14 under weekend.

**Q. A 61 on Saturday helped.**

**RORY McILROY:** (Inaudible). If I get off to a fast start tomorrow like I did today, then I'll be right there back in the tournament.

**Q. Well, not the finish you wanted, Rory, but you really did play some good golf there in the middle.**

**RORY McILROY:** Yeah, I did. A little frustrated with the finish, as you said, but for the most part I played well. I hit a lot of better shots today, better quality. The quality was definitely up in my driving and my iron shots, so give myself more opportunities for birdies. But it was tricky out there. It was just the wrong club on 17 which caused that bogey, and then 18 was playing as tough as I've ever played it. Rickie said walking up the fairway, he hit probably the best drive of the day for him and he still had a 4-iron into that pin. So it was playing long today. Yeah, it's a step in the right direction. It's better than it was yesterday, and hopefully tomorrow is going to be better than it was today.

**Q. Rory, was it the wind especially on 17 and 18 or what was --**

**RORY McILROY:** Yeah, on 17 it was 181 to the pin and it was downwind, but it's hard to -- it was playing 181, it might have been playing 186, 187. It's hard to get yourself to hit a 9-iron that far. I was trying to take a little bit off an 8-iron, and once it got up in the wind it didn't come down forever. So yeah, I should have, looking back on it that was probably just a regular 9-iron. Yeah, on 18 it was playing into the wind off the back tee and with the back pin position as well, it was playing as long as it could have.

**Q. Did that lie or anything cause that approach on 18 to hold straight?**

**RORY McILROY:** Yeah, that was just me. I needed to aim it a little left of the green because of the trees. I was trying to cut it in. It just stayed straight. I didn't hold the clubface open long enough for impact. That was a bad swing.

**Q. You've come from behind here a couple times to win going into the weekend. Does that give you some confidence going into the weekend, even 6 back you still have a chance here?**

**RORY McILROY:** Yeah, in 2010 I was 9 back or maybe 10 back going into the weekend. Obviously I produced a great weekend there and last year as well, I had a 14-under weekend. I'll need to do something similar this year to try and get another win here at Quail Hollow. But I feel if I can go out tomorrow and shoot something in the mid 60s, I think the weather's supposed to be a little bit better again, maybe not as much wind so that will give me a good chance going into Sunday.

**Q. You talked about the things you've been working on, your short game looked much better today. How much confidence do you get from that?**

**RORY McILROY:** Yeah, I think when you come back after three weeks off you might be a little bit rusty. I mean you can hit all the chips and pitches and bunker shots you want in the practice area but it really doesn't -- the only way you can really learn how your short game is by if you're on the golf course, different lies and different situations.

Yeah, there was a few that got away from me yesterday and even there was a couple of chip shots that got away from me as well, but for the most part my short game is what saved me

on the first few holes on the front nine and gave me some momentum to go on and make those birdies. I feel like I actually putted pretty well for two days. My pace has been good, I've hit a lot of good putts, some that haven't went in and some that have. As I said, it's a step in the right direction. It's definitely better than it was yesterday and hopefully tomorrow is a little bit better than it was today.

**Q. What was it like playing with Rickie today and the last two days, did you guys feed off each other at all?**

**RORY McILROY:** Yeah, a little bit. I always enjoy when I'm paired with Rickie. He's a good guy. We talk all the way around. We've known each other for 10 years I guess now, and we live very close to each other down in Florida and we see each other all the time. So it's a comfortable pairing for both of us. Yeah, I enjoy it. I've gotten to know Rickie very well over the years. And yeah, anytime you can play with guys like that, it makes you feel a little more comfortable and it really makes you feel as if you're just playing a round of golf back home with your friends.