

FINAL ROUND INTERVIEW: RICKIE FOWLER
May 8, 2016



Q. Rickie, I guess kind of got off to a rough start and it was tough to climb back into it?

RICKIE FOWLER: Yeah, the first four holes here, I mean they're a tough start. You've got to come out swinging. Those are now changing I guess probably. And I played them well all week. I didn't get out of the gate swinging well off the tee, kind of fought that a little bit through the round. So yeah, obviously it sucks. It's disappointing knowing where my game was at coming into today. I felt really good about being in the final group and getting the job done. But yeah, some little off swings off the tee and then catching that mud ball on 7, not exactly good fortune. Proud of the way that Joe and I fought today and kind of hung in there and kept it at least possible for a while. But yeah, a little disappointed.

Q. (Inaudible) just took it away from you?

RICKIE FOWLER: Yeah, I didn't want to play for it too much, it was a little bit on the left side of the ball and the ball's a little below my feet so we're still aiming up the middle of the green. The wind's off the right so I obviously don't want to just bail out left if the mud doesn't touch it. And it was just a little bit on there. And I mean I hit the second shot exactly the same except there was no mud on there. I made some really good swings that didn't turn out that well, and at the same time I hit some poor tee balls that definitely kind of took it away from me.

Q. Can you talk about the confidence you get from this going down to Florida? You played really well in Florida this year, especially going into next week specifically?

RICKIE FOWLER: Yeah, no, I've played really well this year. Really the only hiccup was Augusta and we talked about that as far as just the mental mistakes. I feel I didn't make any mental errors today, it was just some tough swings and a couple bad breaks. No, it feels good, especially this week to -- talked about I didn't feel like I had anywhere near my best stuff except yesterday was the best that I had, and to kind of fight around and figure out how to still score with what I had, I was definitely pleased with that.

Q. What do you think it says, there's a couple of top-10 players, yourself, Rory and Phil close behind, Justin, two guys who really haven't been there much of late and they're about to playoff. What's that sort of say about golf, the state of professional golf?

RICKIE FOWLER: Well, the state of it, the depth is probably deeper than its ever been. No disrespect to past generations, there's a lot of guys playing very well right now. The guys that are at the top but also the guys that are there in the middle, guys that you don't hear the names very much. Everyone out here can play golf. I mean, it's a fine line, especially

weeks like this where the golf course is tough. It demands a lot out of your golf game. You can see, just like I said, go from yesterday where I felt like I was going in the right direction and then just a little off today.

Q. I know it's still very early but when you have a chance like this and you don't get it done, how long do you linger on that, if at all, moving into next week?

RICKIE FOWLER: Not much. It's just learning from it and feeling good about being in the position and dealing with what I had today and not letting it get away from me. Like I said, I was able to kind of fight through it, deal with some tough breaks, deal with not swinging it well off the tee and figuring out a way to still get it around and hang around. It wasn't like 2 over and guys were shooting low numbers. This golf course has played tough over the weekend, so proud of the way I hung in there. You don't see many single digits win PGA Tour events.