

**FINAL ROUND INTERVIEW: PHIL MICKELSON**  
**May 8, 2016**



**Q. You must have a lot of satisfaction to finish this week in the (inaudible.)**

**PHIL MICKELSON:** Yeah, it was a really good round today, I played well and hit a lot of good shots. I hit a lot of good shots over the weekend. Unfortunately, one bad hole yesterday kind of cost me. But today's round gives me a little bit of momentum heading into THE PLAYERS and a little bit of a momentum boost.

**Q. Give us an idea of playing conditions out there. (Inaudible.) Scoring conditions out there, how would you assess them?**

**PHIL MICKELSON:** Well, the lack of wind has made it much more scoreable or gettable, but there are a number of holes with the greens being quick that you have to be very careful on and around the greens. I don't think it's easy. I mean, I think there's low scores out there. I don't think it's easy. I think that if you make a mistake in the wrong spot, you can easily make a bogey, double or worse.

**Q. Your frustration yesterday finishing up on 18 (inaudible.)**

**PHIL MICKELSON:** I played probably better yesterday than I did the first two rounds, but because of the last hole and tough conditions, I didn't score very well obviously. But I just thought that I would come out here today and just keep playing the way I've been playing and hitting shots the way I've been hitting shots. I hit a lot of good iron shots. I drove it much better over the weekend and had a lot of opportunities. I'm putting very well, I feel very good with the putter. My game feels very good, but you still, you need that little something to win and make a mistakes like I made on 18, that's the kind of stuff you just can't do, but I feel like I'm pretty close.

**Q. You are taking momentum into next week. Former champion, what does THE PLAYERS championship mean to you?**

**PHIL MICKELSON:** It's a real honor to have won that tournament. I look back, I've struggled on that golf course over the years. It's a very difficult course to recover. To recover off the tee is very challenging because the penalties are so severe. Very difficult to recover around the greens because the shots are so tough around the greens. For me to have won that tournament, it means a lot to me. It's just underneath The Open Championship as far as surprise victories in my career.

**Q. Phil, great run today, great run.**

**PHIL MICKELSON:** Thank you. It was a fun day for me. I played well today and I'm happy

to have come back after yesterday's 8 on the last to shoot a good round. I feel like I've been hitting the ball well this week and playing some good golf, and unfortunately one hole is probably going to prevent me from having the success here that I'd like. But I played really well today and it feels good. I'll take a little momentum heading into next week.

**Q. I was going to say with that thought going into THE PLAYERS Championship next week, your thoughts on how well you are playing?**

**PHIL MICKELSON:** I'm excited about playing and competing, my game feels like it's very close. I had a really good week as far as ball striking. On the weekend I started to drive it much better. And my putting feels really good, I had a good putting week. So I'm looking forward to getting there next week. I'm going to have to play a little bit more defensive around THE PLAYERS because off the tee you've got to keep it in play and around the greens you just want to get on the greens and they're so small. So the ability to recover like I did this week where I missed the ball a lot of times in the right spot, salvaged pars, you can't really do that next week. You've got to just get it on the green.

**Q. How was the course today, easier than yesterday?**

**PHIL MICKELSON:** I think the course is sensational, It gives you kind of a glimpse of what it can be or will be for next year's PGA Championship. The greens are lightening fast. Can you imagine this golf course with severe rough where you have to play very defensive? I think over par would end up winning it. It's a very difficult test, the greens are very challenging and yet its greatness kind of comes out. You see a great discrepancy in scores. The guys that play well are able to take advantage of it, make birdies, and the guys that aren't are getting penalized. I think that's the sign of a really great golf course.