ROUND 1 INTERVIEW: COLIN MONTGOMERIE

June 9, 2016



COLIN MONTGOMERIE: It's so much of a challenge, you know? Where par every hole means something. It feels good, it feels great. Love it because this is what majors should be, you know? You should feel like it's a major and it is. Love it, love these -- absolutely love it. Can't wait for three more days of doing my head in. Yes, I enjoy this. And I'm looking forward to Oakmont next week as well, it will be fun.

Q. I was freezing under this tree, the wind was blowing and I saw you in short sleeves and I felt guilty out there. Would this be like a mild breeze in Scotland?

COLIN MONTGOMERIE: If you put this on a links course, this is a real test. This is really -- this is great. And we want this, we want a breeze at Troon, we want a breeze. I played the course on Saturday. I was there on Saturday, my dad's birthday. There might not be many left so we thought we'd go and we played Troon, my brother and I, and it was great. It was just a slight breeze, it was fantastic, what a day.

Q. Like today's slight breeze or --

COLIN MONTGOMERIE: No, no, less than today. This was a challenge. Oh, God, yeah. Anyone that says -- I think three people now have broken par, four people broken par. That's terrific golf, terrific golf around here to break par. I was even, I played well for even par. Didn't do much. Great place, love it, love it.

Q. How old's your dad?

COLIN MONTGOMERIE: He's 86 now.

Q. Is he Colin as well?

COLIN MONTGOMERIE: No, he's James. He ran out of names for me. They used me as a Depression Colin. They blamed me yesterday, didn't they? Typhoon or Hurricane Colin, isn't it, in the bloody Gulf of Mexico. It's my bloody fault, the weather yesterday. Depression Colin.

Q. Is he retired for how many years?

COLIN MONTGOMERIE: He's retired for 20 years. He left Troon when he was 67 after the '97 Open. He left after Justin Leonard won.

Q. He's done well, still playing?

COLIN MONTGOMERIE: He is. He's the president of the club now, so he would welcome you to his club. It's very much his club. Dad, it's not your club. Well, it is for three years, you know, since he's the president. He loves it, he loves it.

Q. So you talked earlier in the week about keeping the ball below the hole on the greens.

COLIN MONTGOMERIE: Yes, yes.

Q. How well did you do that today and was that really a big part of an even par round like it was today?

COLIN MONTGOMERIE: Well, it was difficult because obviously you keep the ball below the hole if it's not windy, you know? You get out of position off the tee and then you're struggling, you know? But I think it's terrific, I really do. I think this is marvelous. This is a real major. This has a major feel to it. You could put these greens on any course worldwide and everyone would be thrilled with them. This is super. They've done a real good job here. I'm really looking forward to the next three days, I really am. I'm really excited about this.

Q. And you've put yourself in a good spot?

COLIN MONTGOMERIE: It's a huge key because you can blow yourself out today, there's no question. You can score 78 and you can forget it easily. 70 today, there's nothing wrong with that, nothing wrong with that at all.

Q. Real quick, that pitch on the last there?

COLIN MONTGOMERIE: That was a super chip. Yeah, I was lucky. You see, you give yourself -- I wasn't missing it left so I gave myself at least some room, but it just came out just perfectly and it trickled down, thank God.