

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW: BUBBA WATSON
December 2, 2016



Q. Bubba, out in 29, excellent start to what was an even better day.

BUBBA WATSON: Yeah, for sure. You know, it was a great start and it's trusting these irons. It was windy yesterday, hit a lot of irons. You know, put new irons in the bag this week to try them out. And I hate to say it this way, but I made a birdie with a wedge, a new wedge, and I made a birdie on 16 with a new wedge, so all the other birdies and eagles were the old clubs. So it's weird to think that way, but that's what happened today so it worked out in my favor.

Q. After yesterday's round, how important was it to get back in the hunt as you try to defend this week?

BUBBA WATSON: Well, you saw that a few under, shoot a round in the 60s, you can move up. We weren't that far off even though we were even par. At that time last place was like 1 over, whatever it was. So it wasn't like we were far off. There was one guy that shot really low, kind of like last year and like I did today. There's always going to be a great player that does that. And I'm not just saying great player because it was me, but I'm going to. So we're all good players and we all know we can do that, and so that's what I had to do. I had to come out and try to shoot something in the 60s, and when you get lucky, chip in for eagle, hit one out of the rocks or sand or whatever you want to call it with a 3-wood and hit it to 10 feet and make that for eagle, that's when you know you can shoot a decent round or a lot lower round.

Q. (No microphone.)

BUBBA WATSON: No, the back nine is always the tougher nine because there are three par 5s that are reachable on the front. And so for me, I really wanted a 28. I had a chance to make three eagles on the last hole, No. 9 there. So I lipped out, I knew I had missed it a little low so that would have been cool, a 28. It's no 58, but it would have been 28 at least.

Q. Par 5s are the key this week?

BUBBA WATSON: It's just anything's the key. I three-putted -- the toughest hole for me is No. 12, I hit the green twice and I three-putted both days. Putting's always the key. When you watched Tiger at his best, he's putted good, watched Jordan Spieth putting good. That's what it's going to come down to, don't matter par 5s or par 3s or par 4s.

Q. It's going to be windy over the weekend. Do you see the course hanging tight and what do you think you need to do?

BUBBA WATSON: I've just got to play good. I've got to shoot under par. You've got to

shoot under par on the weekend especially since I'm losing, so I've got to shoot under par. The first day was a lot windier than this and I shot even, so I've got to improve on that. And like I said, I three-putted No. 12 twice and so hopefully I can hit the green but two-putt the next couple days.

Q. Bubba, I wonder if you heard the reports that the Rio Olympic golf course is already in disrepair. Your thoughts on that?

BUBBA WATSON: No, that's the first I heard. A high-end club like that, I don't know if they're going to put it out for the public or not, it's going to be tough. I don't know anything about the economy, but their economy was tough already.

Q. How was it when you were playing there?

BUBBA WATSON: When I was playing, there it was great, it's a beautiful place. I've never seen anything better. It's one of the best we played all year. Sad to see that obviously, or hear that. I guess I've never seen it.

Q. Bubba, compared with last year how do you find the changes in the course and is that making it any better or more difficult for you?

BUBBA WATSON: Well, today it was a lot better. No, number -- I don't know what all the changes were, but playing the back tee on 4 and putting that rough in the middle of the fairway makes that very difficult with certain winds. Today the wind was different so it was a lot easier hole. But having the rough in the middle of the fairway is kind of a different way of approaching the golf course. When you play the back tee on 10, it makes that hole tremendously different, especially in the wind. Today the wind wasn't as strong so it made it a lot easier. It's still tough but a lot easier. So those are the only two that I saw and I noticed differences. I don't know what else.