

DOUG MILNE: Like to welcome Tiger Woods back. Tiger, welcome back, welcome back to the PGA Tour and welcome back specifically to the Farmers Insurance Open, an event you won seven times, obviously a place near and dear to your heart.

With that said, you've had a chance to get around 18 holes. Just check in with us on how you're feeling, how you're holding up as you prepare to start round one tomorrow.

TIGER WOODS: Yeah, obviously it's wet out there. It played -- the North Course played a lot longer than it has in years past. They've added a little bit of length to it. The greens are absolutely perfect. We got fooled on a few of the reads, after the recontouring. As you know, over the years I kind of putt by memory and some of these greens are very different, so spent a little bit of time putting around to different hole locations. Brought Joey in for a couple little reads just to get his eyes going again. He's only caddied in one tournament in 17 months as well.

Just overall it felt very good to get out there and play. We had a great time, great group of people and I'm really looking forward to tomorrow.

DOUG MILNE: All right. With that we'll take a few questions. If you just stick your hands up so we can see, we'll get a microphone to you.

Q. Tiger, welcome. You've had such great success here at Torrey Pines. If I was to ask you for a snapshot for your scrapbook of Tiger-Torrey success, history, what would it be?

And then a follow-up question, have you had to change your approach off the tee in terms of practice, the torque on your back because of the surgeries? Has anything changed there? Thank you.

TIGER WOODS: Just like a snapshot of what I've done here?

I made a putt in 2008 that a few people remember, so I think that would probably be it, yeah.

But overall I've had a lot of success here. I won a Junior World here when I was 15 and then my eight wins here at Torrey. For some reason I feel comfortable here on this golf course, whether it was before the redo of the South or post redo, and hopefully post redo of the North.

Q. Just wondering how you manage the focal mental side of it this week after being

out of tournament golf for so long? You have the event at Riviera, you have the equipment change, you have the announcement on the business side with TaylorMade, those all could be potential distractions as you focus on your golf game, so how do you manage that, is that an issue for you this week in your mind in terms of juggling those?

TIGER WOODS: Well, I've learned time management skill to the utmost because of my two little ones, so chasing after those two I've learned to juggle my time and really manage it and focus when I need to focus.

I've got an incredible event staff that is working at Riviera right now and getting that tournament ready. So for me, I was able to focus on getting ready for this event. I have certainly been testing equipment and have settled with TaylorMade. It's been -- it's a process in which I had to be very careful going into because of my procedures on my back. I physically just couldn't go out there and hit hundreds upon hundreds upon hundreds of golf balls a day similar to what some of the guys are doing now. I think that's how Rory might have hurt himself, is that it's great the fact that we have the opportunity to put any clubs in the bag, but also then again there's also the flip side of it is you have to hit so many golf balls to figure out what's going on.

Q. Tiger, do you think you can play at the level that you did in 2013 when you won five times and win out here in 2017? Will you need to play better?

TIGER WOODS: Karen, I don't know. I haven't -- we all know I haven't played a full schedule in a very long time, so this is an unknown. So one of the reasons why I'm playing four out of five is to get into the playing rhythm of playing competitive golf again. I've been away from it for so long.

I've played one tournament in that 15-month span and I haven't played a full-field event, I haven't got into the rhythm of playing weeks on a season. It's been a while, and so it's nice to start here at Torrey; also go to another place, Dubai, which I've won there before as well. So I'm going to two venues in which I know how to play the golf course. The North Course is one of the reasons why I asked them if I could play the practice round or the pro-am today on the North Course, to take a look at it because I hadn't seen it with the changes. So starting out the first two events are two events that I've won on.

Q. Tiger, with the flipping of the nines, can you specifically talk about the 16th hole?

TIGER WOODS: What hole? Is it the old 7?

Q. Old 7, yeah. That tee box is quite a view. Can you at least take me through your strategy on that tee shot and also talk about the scenery that surrounds up there on that box?

TIGER WOODS: Yeah, they took out that bunker on the right. I guess the theory is that

they might move it up to the front part of that tee box and have us have a go at it, but it's not going to happen this week with it being too wet. Every ball is plugging or picking up mud. I can certainly see what they're trying to do and allow us to be more aggressive going off that tee and taking a further right line and hitting driver because generally it's a 3-wood over to the left, hit some kind of pitching wedge in there. Today with the ball not flying very far, I hit driver and the ball backed up and hit a pitching wedge in there.

Q. Then just talk about the vistas up there on that tee box here at Torrey.

TIGER WOODS: You know, I'll be honest with you, I really haven't seen much of those vistas only because I'm not being -- I'm not joking, but I'm so focused on what I'm doing and so I just, I'm looking at where I want the golf ball to go. And people have asked me, "Man, is Pebble one of the most beautiful golf courses there is?" The size of the fairways, yeah, they're great because it gives me angles into certain flags. So I don't know really look around that much because generally I'm playing tournament golf, and playing tournament golf, I'm so focused on what I'm trying to do.

Q. Tiger, it's not supposed to be that warm this week, it certainly was very cold this morning when you started. What kind of trepidation do you have on a day like this and what kind of precautions are you taking obviously to deal with after all you've been through?

TIGER WOODS: Yeah, well, I had rain pants on, I had four layers on and I was still cold. I used to be able to handle this, this kind of cold weather but now I'm a Florida softie. I'm used to practicing in shorts and no shirt in my backyard all the time. It's a little bit different when it gets into the 40s. It was quite eye opening and, you know, it's just about staying mobile and keeping warm and moving. Standing around, I don't want to get tight, am I standing around too much. And this morning I kept the warmup short. Well, it's dark out, warming up by light, but just to make sure that I kept moving, I kept hitting ball after ball after ball and kept moving, I kept warm. I didn't hit very many putts on the putting green just to make sure that I still had the warmth from the range and then went into my pro-am.

Q. Tiger, there's a lot you don't know having not played for so long. What do you know, and what would surprise you about this week?

TIGER WOODS: What I don't know is playing a golf course in which I've had high rough. The last time I think I played high rough was probably Whistling Straits. Wyndham had bermuda but it wasn't that high. Whistling Straits was probably the longest -- well, since then it's the longest rough I've played in, so this has been different. But it was neat to open up a 5-wood and I hit a little chop wood 5-wood about 160 yards out there just experimenting and I was able to pull that off. So those are shots that I hadn't practiced because, living in Florida, we don't have rye grass, we don't have this, we only have bermuda, so it was neat to try and play certain shots.

You know, as a surprise, I was surprised to be able to pull off some of the shots and

remember how to play them because I hadn't played them in a while.

Q. Tiger, just wondering what your first reaction was when you saw the draw for these first two rounds?

TIGER WOODS: I was excited.

Q. Is that what you wanted, to be thrown straight back into the deep end?

TIGER WOODS: Why wouldn't you? You know, that's two guys that are the best in the world and they're up there and playing some unbelievable golf and they're good friends of mine. I couldn't have asked for a better pairing.

Q. Just a quick follow up, is there a sense that you may not want to fall into the trap tomorrow trying to match those two off the tee?

TIGER WOODS: Oh, hell, no. I can't carry the ball 320 yards out here on this vista stuff. Those guys will bomb it out there, that's fine. I'll just play my game and the name of the game is low score. It's not a long drive contest. You know, I was looking up a stat the other day and I saw that I averaged I believe 296 in '97 and I was second longest to John Daly, and I think Jason last year averaged 305 and he barely cracked the top 15. So it's a different game. I'm longer now than I've ever been, but it's all relative. Everybody's bombing it out there now. Dustin's coming off of playing great in Abu Dhabi and Jason's been playing well. It will be fun.

Q. Tiger, you were talking to Commissioner Monahan out there today. What is your sense of what he'll bring as commissioner and has he talked to you much about your ideas or input on the future of where the tour should go?

TIGER WOODS: Yeah, I've known Jay since probably 2003. We started the Deutsche Bank together and have worked intimately over the years with that event and improving that event and then eventually getting into a playoff event.

So we've known each other and worked with each other for a very long time and Jay's very talented and ingenious in getting creative. Especially now with the way everything is going, you know, into mobile devices and when the TV negotiations are happening and starting and the sponsorships, we're going to have to be more creative in how we present our sport to the consumer. I think Jay, with his talents, will bring that to the table.

Q. Tiger, assuming you have an adrenaline rush before any tournament starts, I just wonder with this kind of new beginning over here, is it the same? Is there a little bit more of a -- is it amped up more in this stretch coming up in terms of your adrenaline and just what your anticipation is?

TIGER WOODS: Well, I'm certainly -- it's hard to remember when I was this excited

because I hadn't played in a few years. So it's been a few seasons since I was in this position. So I'm looking forward to getting off to and playing and trying to keep improving and getting my game better, more consistent, rounding into form and making my way to that first full week in April and getting everything ready for that.

Q. Tiger, what process was followed by switching out your clubs, the irons and the wedges and how long do you think that will take.

TIGER WOODS: With TaylorMade, they're allowing me to take my time and we're going to develop my irons and make the irons and the blades that I want and that will fit my game and what I like to look at in not only the playing position but also feel and obviously what shot window I want to hit it through. So we're in a process of building that and it's going to take a little time. And the same with the wedges, but I'm going to use my same grind. They're going to make my grind on the wedges that I've used over the years. I've used a couple different grinds over the years with Nike and we're probably going to have a couple of those different grinds available just because when I play in different sands, different parts of the world, I like to switch out my 60s every now and again. So we're going to have that availability as well.

Q. Tiger, you haven't played a competitive round with Jason Day since the Open at St. Andrews two years ago. How much different do you think his game has come in that time given that he's won a major and a PLAYERS?

TIGER WOODS: It's come around a lot. Not only has he gotten stronger, but just look at the way he's managing himself around the golf course and not making the silly mistakes. All it takes is one mistake and it costs you a tournament, one shot. He's not giving up those shots, and so hence he's in more events with a chance to win come Sunday and he's capitalizing on them and he's won events. That's to his credit. He's worked so hard with Colin and his crew to make sure that he got his -- he would get his game to a higher level and he keeps ascending. He keeps wanting more, he keeps wanting to improve. Hats off, he should be commended for that.

Q. Tiger, back to the equipment thing, what do you anticipate will be more difficult for you in terms of the switch, the irons, the wedges or the driver?

TIGER WOODS: Well, Larry, I think it all started with -- for me it starts with the golf ball because we use it on every single shot we hit, okay? So once I've figured on the golf ball and then we build it back from there. I tested with a variety of different companies and I found that TaylorMade and their setup worked the best with my golf ball and allowed me to hit numbers that I hadn't seen before. So it was kind of a no-brainer for there.

And then with the irons, as I said we're going to take our time and build up an iron that I like not only in the playing position but how it feels and how it performs.

So there's no rush on that. I'll be playing my current Nike irons and the blades I've been

using for years for right now until TaylorMade builds me the irons that I want. Even then, I still have to go out there and I've still got to do the testing at home and do the testing on the numbers but also do testing at medal is and hit shots and see how it feels and how it performs through the dirt and that's going to take a little bit of time as well.

Q. Tiger, what do you miss most about playing competitively on tour, and with that being said, how does that kind of play into the excitement going into this week?

TIGER WOODS: I miss trying to beat these guys, I really do. We're a fraternity out here. We see each other all year and some of us have seen each other for decades out here. It's just fun to be competitive and fun to go out there and compete at the highest level and against the best.

And for me to get the draw that I got, I couldn't be happier. To get a couple of the best players, and Jason being the best player in the world right now, man, it's going to be a lot of fun. I think it will be fun for not only the fans but it's going to be fun for us. You always want to play against and with the best players. We're going to have that ability and I'm trying to remind myself, hey, I haven't played in a while, hey, it's just the first two days and get yourself in contention, build your way up, it's not Sunday. I've got a long way to go to get to that point and build myself into a position where I have a chance to win this event, but it's nice to start off with a pairing like that.

DOUG MILNE: Okay. With that, we appreciate your time as always and wish you the best of luck this week.

TIGER WOODS: Thank you.