

**ROUND 2 INTERVIEW: PHIL MICKELSON**  
**January 27, 2017**

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**Q. Can you talk about the scramble to get in under the wire there at the end?**

**PHIL MICKELSON:** You mean to make the cut?

**Q. Yeah.**

**PHIL MICKELSON:** I thought -- I haven't seen the board, but I thought even would make it. So I didn't feel like -- I didn't feel any stress on that, especially with the last hole. It's essentially a hundred yard par 3 because it's not reachable. So just hit a couple shots down there and try to wedge it close, which I did, and made birdie. It was a good way to finish.

Even though I'm very close to the cut line, I'm only seven shots off the lead on a golf course you can make up a lot of ground, especially when you go out early because the greens are pristine, they're in great shape. But as we get traffic, they become progressively more difficult because of the soft conditions. I'm going to probably go pretty early because of being right on the cut line and I might have a chance tomorrow to get off to a hot start and get in it for Sunday.

**Q. Are you a morning person?**

**PHIL MICKELSON:** I love it, love the morning.

**Q. 7:00 has never been daunting to you, right?**

**PHIL MICKELSON:** No. When I was working down at Stardust, first group was 6:50 and we would go off before that so we would tee off at 6:40 in the summers, and in the winter 7:00 was the earliest time so we were out at 6:50. It was my favorite time because poa annua greens in the morning are just a beautiful surface to putt on. I'm looking forward to the opportunity tomorrow to get hot with the putter.

**Q. A lot of big names didn't survive this cut and you did. Does that speak to the difficulty of the course or maybe something going on with them?**

**PHIL MICKELSON:** I don't know what it really says, but I feel that these two golf courses are very difficult to recover from misses. You have to strike it well. I had two pretty good ball-striking rounds, and although I might have missed a few greens and salvaged some pars, it's very difficult to do that around here consistently because of the severity around the greens. So if you're not sharp and not striking it well, it's a difficult place to play.

**Q. Sixteen years since you've won here. You said earlier in the week you feel like you have one more in you. Are you feeling stronger about that now?**

**PHIL MICKELSON:** I feel like the way I struck it, the way I drove it, the way my game feels, I think my game is very close to clicking. It's going to click. I don't know exactly when, but it's going to click any day and I'm hoping it's tomorrow because I would love to get one more title here.

**Q. (No microphone.)**

**PHIL MICKELSON:** Well, there's so many difficult holes out here that you can often make up strokes with pars, and there's so many birdie holes out here that you can make some birdies and make up ground. If I can shoot something in the mid 60s tomorrow, I'll have a good chance for Sunday.