



PHIL MICKELSON: We're all facing this week of trying to control the distances with your irons and how difficult that is at altitude and how different it is. I really enjoy that challenge, I'm having fun with it. I hit a lot of good iron shots and I drove the ball pretty well, too, which allowed me to play a number of holes aggressively.

Q. The crowd was really behind you. Of course you haven't been to Mexico City in a long time, not as a professional. Did you feel that they were excited to have Phil Mickelson here?

PHIL MICKELSON: I've loved it. I'll tell you, I've had a great time these first three, four days. I did an outing here on Monday and got to meet a lot of people and they couldn't have been nicer. It really is great that Mr. Salinas has brought this tournament here and it's great to have a World Golf Championship outside the United States. Here in Mexico City bringing world-class golf is a real plus.

Q. Always good to get off to a great start, 4 under, fast start for you. You're going to build on this obviously, but you're playing well.

PHIL MICKELSON: It was a good start, it was a good round and I've really had some fun this year with where I feel my game's at and it's nice to start this tournament off on a good foot and I'm having fun.

Q. Now a bunch of kids want your autograph. Are you going to talk Spanish to them or what?

PHIL MICKELSON: Un poquito.

Q. Phil, how would you assess your round today?

PHIL MICKELSON: I had a really fun round, I played well, and it was fun to birdie the last hole. But I really like the golf course. The people here are so nice and I love the challenge of dealing with the altitude and trying to hit the irons the right distance.

Q. I saw you all week practicing your putting a lot. It must be fun trying to decipher these greens?

PHIL MICKELSON: They're the greatest challenge of the golf course. They're very difficult, they're very undulated with a lot of speed and they're very difficult to putt. I three-putted earlier from just off the green, and other than that my touch got much better and I was able to have a bunch of easy pars, which on these greens is not easy to do.

Q. You've lived so close to Mexico --

PHIL MICKELSON: My family and I, we've come to Mexico. We would come once or twice a year, but we would go to Puerto Vallarta, Cancun, Cabo San Lucas, where I've only been to Mexico City one time and it was 30 years ago. I'm really enjoying it. The food here is spectacular. The coffee, I love coffee, the coffee here is tremendous.

Q. What have you had?

PHIL MICKELSON: El carne. But I've really enjoyed my time here. I'm very limited on my Spanish, so let's not overdo it, okay? Thank you.

Q. (No microphone.)

PHIL MICKELSON: It was a fun opening round, fun start to the tournament. I really enjoy this golf course. I enjoy the fact that we have a World Golf Championship here in Mexico City now and it was a fun way to end the round with a birdie on the last hole.

Q. What was the best part of the day?

PHIL MICKELSON: I think the best part of the day for me was how the people here were so supportive. That was surprising and flattering.

Q. Did you ever think you would hit a 379-yard drive?

PHIL MICKELSON: I've done it, but it's been off the cart path. What hole did I do that here?

Q. Bones and I were trying to figure.

PHIL MICKELSON: Seventeenth at Doral I hit the cart path and it was over 400.

Q. We thought maybe 6, but I don't know.

PHIL MICKELSON: I don't know, I'm not sure. Anyway, it's really fun to deal with the challenge of the altitude and distance control, and the greens are small and difficult and you have to be precise, plus the speed and the contours of the greens are very challenging. So even though the golf course doesn't play long because of the altitude, it is challenging in many other respects with the precision of the irons, the small targets that the greens present and the speed and undulation of the greens.

Q. So you didn't necessarily think it was going to be easy?

PHIL MICKELSON: I didn't see that because you really aren't able to overpower the course

because of how tight it is. That makes the precision with the irons more important. The greens are very difficult to putt. They don't look as difficult as I think they are.

Q. (No microphone.)

PHIL MICKELSON: I haven't seen them. I mean, I've seen a few of what I speculated but I don't know enough to comment. I think it's great that they're putting in an effort, you know, that they're really trying.

Q. Did the first drive (inaudible), what do you think when you saw the ball (inaudible)?

PHIL MICKELSON: That it was a great way to start. It was a very important -- it's not the easiest tee shot and to hit it on the green was very nice. I love two-putt birdies.