

RICKIE FOWLER (-6)

Q. 6 under, bogey free, that's a solid day.

RICKIE FOWLER: It's a nice way to start the year, or the season.

Q. We can say year, can't we?

RICKIE FOWLER: I guess. It's nice to come off of some time off just kind of being away from the game and feeling good coming in. And it was nice to, yeah, go out and play bogey free. I made one good putt to save it for not having a bogey on the card. Nice way to finish, a couple birdies coming in and solid way to start it.

Q. Near miss on the last, but real key to get the jets going again on the fifth hole, which was your 14th of the day, to finish with a few more and get a lot more out of this round. Not to use the word "stuck in neutral" but some pars to start the back nine, you really got it going again?

RICKIE FOWLER: Yeah, I had some good looks to start the back nine and, like I said a good par save, which was on my 11th, No. 2, and yeah, got something going. Made a really good up-and-down on 5 and made a couple good putts and swings coming in, so nice to turn a decent round into a pretty solid one. Right now we're three off the pace, which we'll see if we can go get another good one tomorrow and get ready for the weekend.

Q. Before I let you go, Rickie, tough place to call the office this week, it's pretty beautiful. Are you getting a chance to enjoy some of this Mayakoba Resort?

RICKIE FOWLER: Yeah, it's been a fun week. We got down here on Saturday, my girlfriend and I. I didn't touch a club until Tuesday, so we were able to enjoy the amenities and the beach. OHL and Mayakoba, they've been great to us this week. So excited to be down here and finally make a trip to a place where I've never heard a bad thing about it, so nice to see it for myself.

Q. Well, Rickie, it looked like it was a fun little morning round that you put together. How would you characterize it?

RICKIE FOWLER: It was nice. Got off to a solid start, made some good swings, got up and down to start the round and always nice to go bogey-free. Always nice to start the year that way, just six birdies out there. I had one really good par save on my 11th, which is No. 2. Other than that, it was nice to start the year on a positive note.

Q. At what point during the round could you tell that you were in control of your game and would post a nice number?

RICKIE FOWLER: I made, like we were talking about, a couple good up-and-downs on the first five or six holes to kind of keep the round going and move in the right direction. I think, yeah, short game, touch and feel is a big thing coming off of, I think we've had roughly a month off, five weeks or so. So when the feel is somewhat there, it frees you up to know that you can get away with some missed shots and it allows you to swing a bit freer.

Q. Were you surprised at all that you take a month off and you shoot a 65, or did you have an inkling that your game was trending in this direction?

RICKIE FOWLER: Well, coming off last season, statistically it's the best year I've had. Even when I had the couple rounds that I played during that four- or five-week stretch, I never felt like I was far off. I still felt like I was hitting kind of the window and hitting the shots that I was trying to. So just had to get a little bit of work in the last couple days and kind of hard not to have fun and play well when you're at a place like this.

Q. Your estimation of your round today, once again, you got off to a good start?

RICKIE FOWLER: Yeah, nice way to start the week. Came down here obviously coming off of a great season last year. I didn't play a whole lot the last four or five weeks, but never felt like I was far off when I did go out and make some swings. Body feels good. We got here on Saturday, but didn't touch a club until Tuesday. So got nine holes in then, the pro-am yesterday and felt like I could go out and play well. The course seems to suit me well. Made some good up-and-downs, felt like I drove the ball well, made a few putts. Yeah, nice way to start.

Q. You were telling us two days ago that you hadn't played much competitive golf until right now. How did you feel physically and mentally, everything on the course?

RICKIE FOWLER: I felt good. I had a couple good up-and-downs early that kind of showed me that I had good touch and feel. That was nice to be able to do that and hit some quality shots. Doesn't feel like I took too much time off. It was, like I said, nice to get off to a good start and get the season started in the right direction.

Q. Rickie, yesterday you had a great day in pro-am and now you have a great day at the beginning. How do you feel?

RICKIE FOWLER: I feel good. I had a great time playing yesterday. I had a really fun pro-am group. I think they ended up going on to win. My crew started off with a win this week, I might as well finish it for the group on Sunday. But off to a good start. Definitely want to play well down here being my first showing at Mayakoba. Yeah, I couldn't really ask for much more today. Good start and headed in the right direction.

Q. You're three strokes behind Patton. Does that put any pressure coming to tomorrow's round?

RICKIE FOWLER: No. I mean, we're one round out of four down. There's a lot of golf to be played. Three off of the pace early, obviously a great round today, but a lot of golf to be played.