

RICKIE FOWLER (-10)

Q. Rickie Fowler, one of the guys who's sharing the lead at 10-under par. What was the restart like for you?

RICKIE FOWLER: Well, we talked about it, go out and make some good swings, try and get in the fairway, which was close, I got one in the fairway. But the biggest thing was dealing with some mud on the ball the last two holes coming in. Chesson had a really bad one there on 18 and I had two on the last two but not as bad as he did. So just trying to manage it, get it around.

I feel like playing those last three holes even par is good. Those are probably one of the harder parts of the golf course is really the final five holes or so. Having to play a couple in the weather last night and then to be out here -- it's blowing a little bit but not too bad, but with soft conditions and dealing with mud balls and the wind becomes fun.

Q. About the biggest thing you had to deal with was the scarring visual off of 17, three guys in robes. How did you handle seeing Zach, Cameron and Jonathan giving you a little love?

RICKIE FOWLER: Well, really good buddies of ours. I haven't seen J-Bird as much lately but good to have him back out here on Tour with us. He's an amazing person. But Zach, spent a lot of time with him. We roomed together for the British Open the last few years. Spent a lot of time on the golf course, away from the golf course. Cam, he was my roommate for six years, so I've had plenty of time around that guy.

Q. Not the first time you've seen him in a robe?

RICKIE FOWLER: Not the first time, no. No, it's cool. They had talked about it yesterday, actually. Nice of them to pull through.

Q. I see your family and you have your girlfriend, Allison, here walking off to the side. What's it been like to obviously be in contention your first time back, but also have a nice family week as well?

RICKIE FOWLER: It's great. To be down here, Allison and I and then my sister, one of our family friends, my grandparents, her parents. Actually, my mom was supposed to be down, and my dad, but my dad actually ended up having surgery. He's fine. My mom's passport expired, so sorry, Mom. Yeah, we're rubbing it in as much as possible. We Face-Timed my mom two days ago from the beach just to kind of make her feel a little bad about it. I think it's the last time that her passport will be expired.

Q. Rickie, we spoke earlier in the week. You've been down here quite some time enjoying the amenities, R&R. My gut told me you probably would have rather been out there golfing sooner than we got out there.

RICKIE FOWLER: Yeah. Well, I mean with a 5:00 wake-up call, you would like to start a little sooner than 1:40. It's the way it is. We deal with weather every once in a while on the PGA TOUR, around the world really. You kind of just learn to play when you get to play, relax when you get to relax. A lot of guys, we probably didn't get a whole lot of sleep last night just from kind of tapering off and then being back up, like I said, around 5:00 wake-up call. Yeah, rest when you can, tee it up when you can.

Q. Great up-and-downs on 16 and 18. The bunkers, they were wet, still managed to save par on both them. Walk us through those.

RICKIE FOWLER: Yeah, I mean, I knew the ball was going to come out a little quicker on both. Hit it perfect on 16. I thought it might come out a little right. When the bunkers are a little firmer, sometimes with the open face it will tend to come out a little more right.

And then 18, I actually thought the ball would stop a little quicker and it came out a little hotter. The bunker wasn't as soft as it was on 16, a little firmer bottom, and luckily I saved myself with a good putt. It's almost easier to play out of bunkers when they're wet, just have to throw the club down there and let it do its thing. They're going to come out quick, like I said, but nice to have some good ones and, like I said, save myself with that good putt on 18.

Q. I was shocked the bunker shot on 18 didn't grab as well and it trickled by the hole. But the putt on 17, were you thinking wind at all, or was that just a little long on the speed? Back in our studio we were discussing maybe you were thinking the wind would push that putt on 17?

RICKIE FOWLER: Well, so I had it going right early and then straightening out. It went right the whole way. What I had in a perfect world was ball starts left edge with some pace, breaks to the middle and stays straight the last three feet or so. That wasn't the case. I felt like I started it right where I wanted to and it just moved across the hole. So I was trying to keep the speed up. I didn't want to go outside the hole with it possibly straightening out at the end and only going to edge and missing on the high side. Hit a good putt, just a little bit of a misread and misjudged kind of the slope and grain.

Q. Rickie, playing 18 holes in 30 hours, the patience that requires?

RICKIE FOWLER: Yeah, that's not the pace of play that you normally want, but I feel like you get used to it at times. We deal with weather on occasion and learn to rest when you get to rest and go play when they tell you to play. So a couple times where we went to warm up and back inside with some of the storms.

But I'm happy with where we're at after two rounds. Looking forward to getting back out on the course. I'm not sure if it will be today just because of the sunlight and once they get everything back and re-paired. I have to wait until tomorrow, but we'll go rest up and be ready to play when we get to.

Q. The importance of having a great short game this week?

RICKIE FOWLER: It's definitely helped. I've had about a month or five weeks off or so and I hadn't played a whole lot when I was taking that time off because I really wanted to step away and get some relaxation away from playing golf. It's been great to have my short game save me. Made a lot of good up-and-downs, only the one bogey for two rounds, so happy about that. We'll keep it going.

Q. As a player that's really loved in Mexico, you know Tiger Woods, you know him from Medalist. Have you seen him play lately? If so, what can you tell us about Tiger, how's he doing, your friend?

RICKIE FOWLER: He's healthy, he's doing well. I'm really looking forward to seeing him back in action in a couple weeks' time in the Bahamas. I know he's excited. We're all excited to potentially have him back healthy and playing golf. One step at a time. We want to have him healthy more so than just out playing golf. If he can come out, be healthy, have some fun, if so, I wouldn't be surprised if we see him right back in contention.

Q. Rickie, is that not the longest second round you've ever been a part of?

RICKIE FOWLER: Longest second. My longest first round would have been Kapalua, I can't remember what year exactly. It was four, five years ago maybe. The tournament was supposed to start I think on Friday and we ended up starting Monday. We've experienced stuff like this before, but you kind of just get used to rest when you get to rest and go play when they tell you to.

Q. What's the most important thing when you're in a situation like this -- is it patience, is it conserving energy -- and how do you approach the next couple days?

RICKIE FOWLER: Well, both of those, patience and conserving energy. Like I said, rest when you get to rest. Any kind of downtime and putting your feet up to get some good sleep, even though last night it's kind of a quick turnaround. Five solid hours of sleep will go along ways, it's better than nothing.

The patience of not getting frustrated with stopping and starting, going out, warming up and getting called again. Yeah, play when they tell you to go play and rest when you can.

Q. Coming into this week coming off the break that you had, the expectations, you have to be pretty happy where you are?

RICKIE FOWLER: Yeah, I'm very happy. Coming from basically five weeks of very little golf played. Oklahoma State fundraiser pro-am to help the golf team and three fun rounds of golf. I mean, there wasn't a whole lot. Every time I teed it up, it didn't feel like it was far off. There was only two rounds last week when I was playing at home that were consecutive. All the other ones were spread out. Like I said, it was never far off, so I was looking forward to getting down here. Hard not to enjoy yourself when you're at a place like this where you can go hang at the beach and really throw your feet up and relax.

Q. Can you tell us how was your wait this morning? You were supposed to start at 7:30, you must have been awake by 5:30 in the morning. What was the wait like, the morning, what did you do?

RICKIE FOWLER: Yeah, I mean, we got woken up by the storms last night a few times. We tried to get as much sleep as we could and the first alarm was going off at 5:00. I'm sure most of the guys were getting up around then. I kind of waited as long as I could to get over here. I kind of figured there would be some sort of delay, I just didn't know how much just because of how much rain we did get last night.

So I think I got over here a little bit before 6:00 and, yeah, we just kind of hung around, not a whole lot to do. Had some good food, relaxed, and once we got the longer delay, went back and watched a movie and got to lay in bed a little bit to really relax. So that's the biggest thing is really kind of resting when we can and hopefully no delays through tomorrow.

Q. In spite of the rain delays you had a solid round. How do you feel on the course?

RICKIE FOWLER: I feel good. I like this golf course. It's a fun layout. I feel like with the one bogey I had, kind of not the best swing there but it was in tough conditions yesterday later with the wind and the rain. Yeah, so far it's been a great stay down here. Off to a good start and looking forward to finishing this thing up, whether it's one or two rounds, we'll go play when we get to play.