

RICKIE FOWLER (-18)

Q. Rickie, that certainly had to be fun out there. That felt like a bit of a heavyweight fight, back and forth. It was really fun to watch.

RICKIE FOWLER: Yeah, Patton and I had a good time. Kind of coming into the back nine in a way came down to the two of us. Wish I would have been a little bit closer going to that last few, but hit some great swings. At least told him try to keep it interesting, keep him honest. But he earned it out there, he played well all day today, 36 holes. Putted really well and made a lot of good putts for birdie to save some pars, and I know he was thanking his putter there on the 18th green.

Q. I know technically we're near the end of a calendar year but this is a start of a new season. You played beautifully. This has to make you feel confident about what we've got maybe coming ahead in 2018?

RICKIE FOWLER: Yeah, it's good. I'm definitely happy with coming off Presidents Cup, five weeks off. I think I was on the golf course five times. Spent a lot of time away from the game, thought about it a lot, and still in a great spot. So I think there's a few things we can tighten up, but I did good job of managing my way around the golf course here, didn't give too many shots away. I think I made three bogeys through the week, made a lot of good putts. Had some slide by, but all in all, nice start to the season even though we are still in the same calendar year.

Q. Rickie, what a comeback you had there in the final few holes. Take me through that little stretch.

RICKIE FOWLER: Yeah, no, I hit a lot of good drives on the back nine. Hit some loose iron shots, not exactly hitting my lines but stepping up to the last three there being 3 back, knew I kind of needed to play a little more aggressive, push forward a little bit. I made some really good swings 16, 17. 18, just tough to really hold that off that hanging lie on 18. It was an impossible putt to get to the hole, too.

So we gave it a run, kept Patton honest, but he earned it out there today. 36 holes, he played solid. He made a lot of putts, birdied, some good par-saving putts to kind of keep things going, momentum moving forward for him. So happy for him and we had a good time getting after it definitely on that back nine. Like I said, glad I could make it interesting, keep him honest.

Q. You were down 4, seemed like it was one of those rounds where you just couldn't get anything going?

RICKIE FOWLER: Yeah, I made a couple long putts on the front nine. Hit a lot of good putts that didn't go in. Felt like I could have had a couple go there before the turn, but just kind of had to stay patient. Feel like I drove it pretty well all day other than the one on 5, which the wind kind of got a hold of it. Yeah, it was just kind of those last three do or die in a way. Knew that I had hit a good drive on 16 in the practice round. It gets pretty narrow up there with driver, but I knew with that back pin, I hit a really good drive and still had 6-iron in. So not exactly an easy hole and I knew that was going to be a big birdie if I could get it. So would have been nice to get one more. Fun day, though.

Q. Final question. Do you feel you're ahead of schedule?

RICKIE FOWLER: This is a great week. Coming on five weeks off, I hadn't played a whole lot of golf. The only consecutive rounds of golf, I played twice last week. So no, I'm happy with where the game's at. Every time that I played it didn't feel like it was far off. I felt like I could go out and play, and it's been nice to kind of relax and recover from a long season. Looking forward to a couple weeks here off coming up and then Tiger's and then a little time for Christmas and spend time with family and then get over to Kapalua.

Q. Each birdie you make in the last round, (inaudible).

RICKIE FOWLER: Great start to the season. Coming off some time off. I hadn't played since Presidents Cup, so I'm definitely happy with how I played here. Patton played great. He got off to a really good start for the week shooting I think it was 62 and he played very solid today, made a lot of good putts for birdie and pars as well to keep things going, so he definitely earned it.

Q. Cancun is a beautiful place, it's a beautiful place for marriage. Are you thinking about this?

RICKIE FOWLER: Not yet, not yet. I'm in a good spot both personal life and professional life.