



TIGER WOODS (-7)

Q. Describe your round in one word.

TIGER WOODS: Successful.

Q. Why?

TIGER WOODS: You said one word.

Q. I didn't say I didn't have a follow-up.

TIGER WOODS: I think it was successful because I went out there and shot 31 on the front nine. I built upon what I did yesterday, I cleaned it up. Only thing I really struggled with today was speed of the greens. Henrik and I were talking about it all day is that they seemed to be like a foot faster. I really did struggle getting the speed and I blew most of them well past the hole and made a few coming back. I also missed my share, too.

Q. How did your body react to two straight days of playing golf last night?

TIGER WOODS: No issues at all, none. That's one of the reasons I went out and played nine straight days before back home and down here as well. My body's accustomed to playing. It's a little different playing obviously tournament golf with tournament speed and hitting certain shots, but the body's good.

Q. Did you take an Advil at 9 on the fairway?

TIGER WOODS: Yeah.

Q. Is that just maintenance at this point?

TIGER WOODS: It's what my surgeon says to do. He's good at what he does.

Q. What's his name?

TIGER WOODS: You should already know that by now, all the research. C'mon.

Q. Did you see your name atop the leaderboard after nine, and if so, what did you think?

TIGER WOODS: No, I didn't, I didn't. I saw somewhere on the back nine I think there was

like five guys at 8 under or something like that, something weird like that.

Q. Tiger, if you had been offered this score after Thursday or Wednesday, would you have taken that?

TIGER WOODS: Yes, um-hmm.

Q. You dropped from 100 to 1 to 15 to 1 for the Masters in like a day. All the hype, obviously it's crazy.

TIGER WOODS: You know, it's just -- I guess they've got to come up with some kind of story. I just wanted to go out there and just play, compete. As I told you guys earlier this week, didn't know what to expect because I hadn't played, I hadn't competed, I haven't had a fused back before in my life. These are all new things. As you can see that even with the fused back, I still have some speed out there and these are all things I've had to learn and will continue to learn. This is a new body that I'm getting used to.

Q. (No microphone.)

TIGER WOODS: I think the standout shot easily by far was the shot into 9. That was a 265 front, hit up in the air and took something off of it and cut it back into the wind.

Q. Tiger, will the next two days also be about getting to know your body?

TIGER WOODS: It's going to be a while. I mean, this is not something that just happens overnight. I've learned a lot of things since my surgeon said go ahead and start swinging full. Still, there's a lot more to learn.

Q. What was your thought process behind chipping on 17?

TIGER WOODS: I didn't have a shot. Hitting a putt, there's so much grain. If you look at the early part of that, where I landed the golf ball was into the grain, but on the backside of it was down grain. If I had to putt that, that was all into the grain. It would have chewed it up and then I would have had a hard time figuring out what pace it's going to be because it came out the other side. Here I could land it, skip it through, then I know exactly what it was going to do after that.

Q. Tiger, you had a long layoff and there's some rust, but did you feel kind of underestimated this week?

TIGER WOODS: Well, I just felt that, you know, I didn't know what I was going to go do out there. You guys didn't know. All these are new things. If I would have had this type of surgery or procedure before in the past, I could tell you what to expect, but this is all new to me.

Q. Have the expectations changed given the first two days and what you've seen out of yourself and physically, the shot making?

TIGER WOODS: Yeah, I felt like today I could have easily gotten to double digits under par. That would have put me probably one or two back, but I think I'm still in it. We've got two more days and I think it's supposed to blow a little harder tomorrow. If that's the case, I think a good solid round should get me up in there.

Q. As your round progressed, social media was just going wild, there were people from all over like Donovan Bailey said, "Could it be? Is Tiger actually back, "I want to believe." Do you know Donovan Bailey and what does it mean to you that all these people are watching, really rooting for you?

TIGER WOODS: I know, it's pretty neat. I think it's very flattering, very humbling that so many people really enjoyed what I've done throughout my first 20 years on Tour. I put a few smiles and few excitements into people's lives, and as an athlete it's very humbling.

Q. For your game, what do you got to do better this week, what do you want to improve on?

TIGER WOODS: Today I hit the ball better than I did yesterday. I wanted to clean it up today, I wanted to play the par 5s better. I did that.

Now I need to get the speed a little more consistent on my putts and I should be okay.

Q. Walking off the first round yesterday (inaudible) 18 holes, has that increased from yesterday?

TIGER WOODS: I don't know a percentage but it certainly has gotten better. I feel more comfortable. I felt more comfortable on the first few holes. I knew what my -- what the adrenaline was going to feel like, which is nice. It was definitely coursing through my system and it was a great feeling. Yesterday I kind of missed it, it was a strange feeling.