

SHANE LOWRY
GRAEME McDOWELL (- 18)

DOUG MILNE: Well, Shane and Graeme, thanks for joining us. Seems like a pretty tough day out there but you two guys obviously didn't fashion it as such getting off to the eagle-birdie start, 8-under 64 in round two, find yourself in great position. Just a few comments on the day today and the conditions out there.

GRAEME McDOWELL: Yeah, like you said, Doug, I think the start was key, starting 3-3. I think we both knew the wind was going to get up and conditions were going to be difficult. In this format, I feel like we both played a lot of alternate golf, alternate shot golf growing up. I was going to say it's a format we're comfortable with, but I think it's one of the hardest formats in golf, to be honest. Obviously the modified alternate having to go with the tee shots makes it a little bit more relaxing, but such a difficult format. To go out and shoot 8 under in that format in these conditions today, I think it speaks volumes about the fact we're both playing pretty well. We both had an opportunity to hit some good shots out there today and make some good putts and gives you a little bit of momentum going in there tomorrow.

DOUG MILNE: Shane, a couple thoughts?

SHANE LOWRY: Yeah, I think to be honest I was quite confident going out there this morning because I played -- I haven't played with G-Mac in a few months now and playing with him this week, I think he's playing quite well. Very happy the way the both of us are playing. So going out there in that format I think we had a lot of trust in each other how we're playing, and when you have a trust in your partner you know they're going to get you out of trouble or you know if you hit an average shot it's not the end of the world, you can make it up on the next. I think that's the big thing about this format is trusting in your partner, and the fact that we use the same ball, which is key for this as well. You know, we used -- I do use a different Srixon ball but I used Graeme's ball today and I have used that ball before, so I think that's probably key in the format as well.

DOUG MILNE: We got well over an inch of rain last night. How much longer did the course feel today?

GRAEME McDOWELL: Yeah, it wasn't too bad actually. I thought the golf course took the rain pretty well considering. It picked up a little bit of mud in places, for example on 17, which kind of, you know, didn't force our decision to take Shane's ball, which was in the left way down there. I didn't hit a very good shot in the end. But Shane had a mud ball from 220 and I had a pretty dodgy lie in the left sand from sort of 160. So did pick up some mud in places, but no, I thought in general the golf course took the rain extremely well. Despite

the forecast, I think we had it off with the weather today and great to see no delays and no major problems with the weather. So it was a good day, a lucky day.

SHANE LOWRY: Yeah, like Graeme said, the only issue we had was on 17. I think if we didn't have a mud ball there I think we probably would have played it because it was only maybe about a 4-iron for me. But like my tee shot ran down the path and eventually into the scrub and we had like 140 front from there, so we ended up using that one.

But the golf course, it played nice. The greens are excellent, as good of greens as you putt on there, and they still held their firmness quite a lot today. So yeah, the golf course was great, Just hopefully the weather can be a little better tomorrow.

Q. You guys said you played in a couple World Cups together. What was the format in that?

GRAEME McDOWELL: The first one was they switched the format up, it was more of an individual and we didn't even play together. That was in Royal Melbourne a few years ago. And then I think we played Kingston Heath, was that last year?

SHANE LOWRY: Last year, yeah.

GRAEME McDOWELL: So that was back to the original World Cup format of --

SHANE LOWRY: Four-ball foursomes.

GRAEME McDOWELL: Yeah, you go -- yeah, better ball foursomes. You know, we enjoyed it. We didn't really compete very well, but Shane and I play quite a lot of golf together and we know each other's games well.

Q. Did you wear unis?

GRAEME McDOWELL: We did, we wore unis, absolutely. I think we were getting ripped on the broadcast apparently for it and I don't understand why.

Q. Ripped?

GRAEME McDOWELL: Well, I mean I think we're trying to get into the spirit of the competition. You know, I played with Poultz here in like '09 and '10 and we did unis then and I've did it every year since. I figured a lot of teams used to do it, but apparently they're not digging on us. Whatever.

Q. You've got three days here, each day's different. Did you ever have a moment where you kind of looked at each other and said, Wait a second, what are we doing here again? What are the rules of this?

SHANE LOWRY: Well, today as well because you were just placing the ball everywhere yesterday. You hit it in the hazard, you get the ball in your hand. So today you're going out and especially with the course being quite wet, it's easy to kind of go down after a tee in your pocket down after the ball, so that was one of the issues today.

But yeah, yesterday I was a bit confused at the start because like you just put your marker down beside the ball and you place the ball beside it but it's not exactly where -- you know, you get as close as you can. It's just a bit weird.

But it's great fun. Golf is pretty monotonous at times and you're just playing 18 holes strokes all year and 72-hole tournaments. So to be in an event like this, it was great fun. And like you said, we're good friends so I'm really enjoying it.

Q. And just real quick, sorry, can you just speak to your decision to play more in America in 2018?

SHANE LOWRY: I have my card over here. My exemption is up next year, so I've really got to go and keep my card now and try and do as well as I can. The last two years I've been traveling back and forth and I've played 15 events both years maybe, maybe 16 one year. I find it just -- guys out here play 25, 30 events, and to try to compete against those guys in 15 events, I don't think it's doable. So yeah, hence the reason for playing more over here and going to play as many events. I'm hoping I can play 20 next year, maybe even one or two more. But yeah, that's my plan for next year and I'm really looking forward to it. I love it over here, I love the PGA TOUR, I'm looking forward to next year.

Q. Given where you guys are from and looking at the weather, is that putting too much together that you guys would play well in something like that?

GRAEME McDOWELL: I think so. I mean, we normally like to have a 20 buck bet for every time someone says that to us on a day like today. "You must love this, you're from Ireland." No, no, we don't like it either. So you're the first guy so that's \$20, \$20 in my pocket.

No, I think we're both good wind players. That is one thing. I mean, we don't like playing in the cold and rain either. I think wind golf is something we're both quite good at, we both feel comfortable fighting it down and fighting it around. But no doubt it did look a bit more like Ireland out there than Florida today, but we had fun.

Q. Were you guys cold at all?

GRAEME McDOWELL: The sweater never even -- it was 70 degrees, wasn't it? It was lovely out there.

Q. Have you played with Strick and O'Hair that much?

SHANE LOWRY: I actually played with Steve this year at the U.S. Open on the Saturday. I

think he was doing really well and he ended up three-putting the last or something, but he was going along really, really well. Yeah, he's a nice fellow. I've never played with Sean, but yeah, I get on great with Steve and he always has a word for you when you pass him and he's a nice guy.

GRAEME McDOWELL: Yeah, same. I played with Sean a couple times in this format. I think obviously played with Steve quite a lot as well. Like Shane said, you won't meet a nicer guy. So two great guys and looking forward to hopefully being in the last group tomorrow.

Shane mentioned outside earlier, we both haven't won this season. You know, a win's a win. We'd dearly love to hold a trophy tomorrow night. But this format is incredible volatile tomorrow with best ball. You can both go out there and shoot 68 together and only shoot 67, or you can both shoot 68 and shoot 64. It's just kind of one of those funky formats. So we've just got to go and put our head down tomorrow and try to give ourselves two looks at everything if we can and see what happens.

Q. Is that comforting that the best ball format is the one that's played in the Ryder Cup and elsewhere and it's probably the one that you guys are most familiar with?

GRAEME McDOWELL: Yeah, that's the format. If you're going out there in a practice round in any tournament in the world, you probably play best ball most of the time. So out of the three formats, the best ball's the most comfortable of the three. Scramble's a funky one from a routine point of view. You do some weird stuff in a scramble. Today the alternate shot, obviously modified alternate's a lot of pressure, and then tomorrow you just go back to playing your own game a little bit. It's nice playing off of Shane's tee shot from time to time, but got to go back and play your own ball tomorrow, get in more of a rhythm, more of a groove. Like I say, we've just got to ham and egg it, whatever you want to call it. If we want to make some birdies, we just hope they're on different holes.

DOUG MILNE: Thanks for your time.