

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW
January 26, 2018

TIGER WOODS (-1)

Q. Looks like you're right at the cut line. How would you characterize your second round?

TIGER WOODS: It was a grind, I fought hard. Typical, you know, just me going out there and fighting for whatever I can get. It's all good.

Q. How much did it jump start your round on 10 to roll in a lengthy putt? You hadn't really seen many drop this week and then close out like you did?

TIGER WOODS: It's hard to make everything drop when most of my putts are from 40 feet on. It was nice to get one to fall in there and get something positive going into the back nine. I knew I needed to get to probably 2 under par to be safe, and just crazy to think about after, what, 70-plus guys within eight shots of the lead, it's crazy.

Q. You talked about your short game and getting used to chipping off of rye grass. We saw some nice chip shots on 5, 6 and 7. What was it like to execute those?

TIGER WOODS: My short game's been good all week, so that part's been good, solid. I'm just trying to get used to the firmness of the greens. We can hear the ball land from the fairway, that's normally not the case. They're awfully springy and pretty difficult.

Q. If you do see the weekend, what aspect of your game will benefit the most from having two more rounds in tournament conditions?

TIGER WOODS: Everything. I've been away from the game for a couple years, so it's nice to get out there and just compete again. Hopefully I'll be around for the weekend and be able to compete and play and keep building.

Q. Tiger, your thoughts on a round that wasn't good to start with but you battled back absolutely brilliantly?

TIGER WOODS: I just fought hard, that's something that I've done my entire career and this is no different. It was tough out there. The greens are firm. We were talking about some of these pin locations, they're a little tough to get at. We found it hard to put some numbers up there. Some of the guys are going low. Saw Jason ahead of us, he was taking it pretty deep today and it can be had, but boy, you've got to hit some pretty good shots.

Q. What are the main positives that you take out of these first two days coming back as you have from the 12-month layoff in terms of PGA TOUR golf?

TIGER WOODS: Well, exactly that. It's been a long 12 months. I've been away from it for a very long time. It's nice to get out there and compete and play. I'm still getting used to my feels, but that just takes more time under the fire. I still need more rounds under my belt. How far certain shots are going, what my swing feels are going to be for certain shots, certain trajectories, those are all things a lot of these guys have already built in, they've been playing. I'm just starting out.

Q. How much are you looking forward to the weekend on one of your favorite courses, the South course, and obviously the crowds are pulling for you, back playing competitively. We know how much you've missed competing.

TIGER WOODS: The fans have been absolutely incredible. They were raucous, they were loud, supportive, and also very respectful of not only myself but my playing partners as well. It was a great atmosphere to play in front of today.

Q. Every competitive round is important to you now that you're trying to build up to the Masters. What are you particularly looking forward to out there this weekend in terms of what you can achieve?

TIGER WOODS: Just continuing, just continuing on getting my feels and hitting certain shots. You know, it's one thing to do it at home, it's totally another thing to do it out here. I for one reason hit the ball further in competition because of adrenaline and that was the case, but how much further? On top of that, the greens are firm. I haven't seen greens like this in a very long time. It's been -- literally, it's been years. It's been fun to play and compete again, and I felt like I fought hard and was able to post a score.

Q. Assess the play compared to yesterday.

TIGER WOODS: I was grinding my way around the golf course today. I didn't quite hit it as good as I would like to. I fought hard. I was trying to post a number which I was able to do today. You know, it was tough. The greens were firm. I mean, they were -- they were firm enough where we could hear the ball landing from the fairway and that's normally not the case, so they were a little bit tricky. We had to watch the speed a little bit. But overall I felt that the golf course could be had if you were driving the ball in the fairway. Jason was right ahead of us, obviously he posted a really low number. It can be done.

Q. One of your better shots was that putt at 18, you were about 80 feet away, put it in there about 10 inches. That was a tough putt.

TIGER WOODS: It was a difficult little putt. I took a second look at it from the middle part of the putt because I saw it went back uphill at the end. I'm actually glad I did that because I would have left that putt short.

Q. Tiger, how aware were you of the cut line, and if it holds, how important is it to

play the next two days?

TIGER WOODS: Well, I saw the cut was at 1 under when I was making the turn. We didn't have any boards after that, so I don't know what it was. At the time I think there were over 80-some odd guys within seven shots of the lead at the time, which is crazy. Everyone's so stacked up, anybody can win the tournament to make the cut. Hopefully tomorrow I can go out there and post a low number.

Q. Tiger, what thing did you take out, it seemed like your short game was terrific today other than the pitch on 8?

TIGER WOODS: Well, that hit concrete. You know, Charley came over to me and said, What the hell did that thing hit? It looked like it hit ice, it skidded. There were a couple shots out there. Charley hit one on, what was it, 2 today that was ungodly. He hit a high spinner that went about 15 feet past. They were tough, but overall, you know, I felt like I did well today. I grinded around, I chipped and putted well and I posted a number.

Q. When was the last time you felt this type of grind when you were physically healthy compared to having to do it today, when was the last time you had the chance?

TIGER WOODS: Physically healthy? Oh, jeez, that's probably back in '13. You know, four, five, six years ago, somewhere around there. It's been a while.

Q. In comparison to the feel today?

TIGER WOODS: Totally different feels because my body's different. I can't tell you it's the same feel I had then because I wasn't fused. This is a different body and that's why I'm excited to play the weekend, continue getting used to my feels because they are different. I can do it at home and hit certain shots, but come out here in competition and my adrenaline goes up a little bit. I hit the ball further, but how much further? And also on top of that, what are my new feels going to be, and these are things that I'm going to have to learn and I need more time under the fire of competition and hopefully I'll be able to play the weekend.

Q. Can you talk about what was going on off the tee, you just seemed to be struggling?

TIGER WOODS: Yeah, I had the pulls early. Actually more like a pull-flip so it was even worse than that. And then after I hit a couple of those I went for the spinner out there and lost a couple to the right. Then settled in and hit some good ones, but still not quite right. I need to fix that.

Q. That's been happening, right? You had pretty much --

TIGER WOODS: No, it has not been happening, but yeah, under competition it's a little

different story. As I said, I need to get used to what my feels are and I haven't felt these things in a while. What shot shape, where am I going to land the ball in the fairway, what angle do I need, all of the little things. When I'm at home I'm buzzing through with a cart and playing my home course so it's a little bit different.

Q. What are you most uncomfortable with on the golf course right now?

TIGER WOODS: Having to shoot low scores. These guys are all going low and I haven't done that in a long time. I haven't played the Tour in a while and I'm looking forward to just kind of progressing, just keep playing, keep playing tournaments and get everything kind of situated headed to April.

Q. Tiger, on 18, 556 yards but on 16 you birdied. What happened on 17?

TIGER WOODS: Oh, I hit it dead off the toe. I was trying to make sure that my path was going left, I was trying to make my hands go left to make sure I took out the right bunker and I absolutely wiped across it and hit it dead off the toe.

Q. The consistency of your chipping, was that a quick fix after the Bahamas or something you worked on because it was strong toward the end today?

TIGER WOODS: It's been good all week. I haven't had any problems at all. Don't forget, in the Bahamas it's pretty tough grain down there, it's totally different and I was more worried about coming here because I haven't chipped out of rye grass since last year when I played here, so it's been a year. It's been a very long time since I've actually chipped out of rye grass, so on Tuesday and Wednesday I spent a lot of time chipping just to get used to hitting different shots.

Q. The last few holes, how much did your sort of ego, your determination, also your experience sort of kick in to want to make the cut?

TIGER WOODS: Well, I was just trying to get under par for the day. I thought that would be a good solid turnaround from being 2 over at the turn. If I could somehow post under par for the day, it would be good work and I was able to get there.