FINAL ROUND INTERVIEW May 6, 2018



TIGER WOODS (2)

Q. It was a round you said you felt like you had 7, 8 under par in you and today not a birdie to be found on the card. What is your biggest takeaway, what let you down today?

TIGER WOODS: I didn't putt well again. I hit a few good drives down the middle that happened to be on the sides and (inaudible) pretty decent today. The chances I did have, I missed them all. It was just a bad week, and good news is wipe your hands clean and go on to the next one.

Q. The really good news is you won at this place next week twice, THE PLAYERS Championship is up next for you. It's a course that demands every single part of your game. So as you leave here, head to Ponte Vedre, what's the one thing you're going to be honing in on to work on?

TIGER WOODS: I think I need obviously to do some practicing with my putter, work on it just a little bit. But I know those greens, I know the putts. You have to hit the ball well there at the TPC. You can't get away with hitting it poorly. I'll still be grinding, working on my swing and making sure that's solid, driving the ball correctly because that golf course does demand everything. It's not so bad when you miss the greens if you miss them in the correct spots. It's one of those golf courses where when you're on, it seems so easy because every one of the balls funnels into the correct spot. If you're not on, then you're always in the wrong spot and it's a very difficult week.

Q. Tiger, not the day you wanted, I know, but just give some comments on the round.

TIGER WOODS: I hit the ball halfway decent today. Hit some good drives that just ended up just off the fairway, some landed in the fairway, so I wasn't disappointed with that.

Again, just did not putt well and didn't make a birdie today. I got shut out.

Q. Kind of rare for you to not make a birdie, there's only a handful of those in your career.

TIGER WOODS: I was in the correct spots. A couple of them, 10 was a perfect example, I'm right there back of the green, easy chip, I leave it where I need to leave it right below the hole and I miss it. I just didn't -- I didn't hit good putts, and on top of that, the ones I did hit well, I didn't have enough speed on them. It's just one of those weeks and I'm on to the next week, which is nice. That's one of the great things about golf is that once the tournament's over, you're on to next week.

Q. Speaking of next week, they've got you paired with Phil next week. Do you enjoy that? I know he gets a rise out of. Do you enjoy it?

TIGER WOODS: Oh, yeah, I do enjoy it because we don't get to do it very often. We are normally paired up on the weekend if we are both playing well, and even that's a rarity. You know, I know they tried that first experiment in 2008, 1, 2, 3, we're out together, and that was a blast for both of us. That was one of the very few times, if not the first time we played together the first two rounds. We don't get the opportunity to do it very often. We've been going at it for the better part of over 20 years and it's fun for both of us to be able to do that.

Q. Do you think you'll have the opportunity to do more of that?

TIGER WOODS: You know, I don't know. It's up to the Tour. I know they're trying to do these new featured pairings. Which is different the better part of five, six years, trying to get more of the -- especially the first couple days because of the new media coverage we have in these live streams early on so you get the early morning guys are viewed. So they want to have some star-studded pairings. You know, I think that it will be fun for all of us, especially for Phil and I.

Q. Next week at TPC Sawgrass are you going to hit the greens a little bit more Monday through Wednesday?

TIGER WOODS: Well, I know the golf course, which is nice, and I know what to expect there. I've played well in spurts there, I've had two wins. Really looking forward to getting there and doing a little bit of homework on the golf course, but I'm very pleased with the way I'm swinging. It's just a matter of making sure I get the right speed for those greens because it's going to be a little bit quicker than it was here.

Q. That golf course is different now than when you won there, so what about the golf course next week gives you confidence?

TIGER WOODS: Well, there's a couple new holes. No. 6 and 7 are different, 12 is different, and I think 15 tee might be a little bit different. I think there are a few tweaks here and there that are a little bit different than when I won there, but still the overall layout's the same. This is our last time in May, and so I want to obviously play well and get a W. I think I'm the only guy to win it in March and May, so maybe I can add another one.

Q. When you think back to the years that you did win there, what was the key?

TIGER WOODS: I hit the ball great. That's a golf course you can't fake it around there and you have to hit the ball well. You know, the first year in 2000 against Hal I was -- I hit it great there that week. Hal just hit it a little bit better than I did. 2001, I didn't really miss a whole lot of shots that week. And then in '13 I put a 5-wood in that week just for that golf course, hadn't used it all year except for that one venue and it worked out perfectly.

You know, the putts are very simple there if you hit the ball in the correct spots. If you're hitting it well, it seems like that golf course is pretty easy, you're always funneling the golf ball in there. But if you're not hitting it well, man, you're in some tough spots. Pete Dye really putts puts it on you, he puts it on you on the misses. If you're hitting it well, then the golf course, you can be aggressive, you can shoot low scores, but if you're not playing well, Pete will definitely punish you.

Q. Tiger, you hit a lot of greens until today this week, is that what you're talking about?

TIGER WOODS: Yeah, that's exactly it. Got to get the ball in the fairway there and get the ball on the green. It's imperative just to give yourself chances. The areas we have to hit the ball in to next week are very small compared to what they are here and just got to get the ball in play first and then attack from there.

Q. The fact you've won it in May and March (no microphone.)

TIGER WOODS: Well, March is different because obviously we can get some of those cold spells that come through there. We've played there with some brutally cold conditions, lots of wind. Occasionally with the overseed you get mud balls, which is very different than May. The overseed -- and I was telling Brandon today that I played there one time, I hit 5-iron on 17. It was cold, about 40 degrees and the wind's howling out of the north and that's not a hole you want to hit 5-iron on.

Q. Jason's still got nine holes to play, but you've sort of developed a relationship with him. As he's trying to get back to No. 1, have you talked to him about that?

TIGER WOODS: I've talked to him a little bit about it. He's in a bad spot here on 9. You know, it's one of those things where when you reach the top, reach the world ranking that you want to attain, and on top of that you've won a major championship, you've won all the tournaments you've always dreamt of winning, what's next?

On top of that, what's different with Jason than the rest of the young guys that are out there in their 20s is that he has a family, and it's very different because his dedication is to his wife and his two kids. So that is very, very different than when you're -- we talked about winning a mayor championship with a child and it's very different than without it. Your time restraints, your practice schedule's different, your sleep schedule is very different.

That's one of the things that I think that he should take a lot away from it is that he did it under obviously different conditions, different times in his life, and now that he's got a taste of it, he wants it back again. That's cool to see. He's willing to get his hands dirty again and do all the legwork off the golf course away from tournaments that it takes, the hours upon hours of countless practice that we have to log in, he's willing to do that again.