

TIGER WOODS (E)

Q. Tiger, you ended the day right where you started, at even par. Sometimes guys will say happy to get in (inaudible). What's your description of today?

TIGER WOODS: I shot about the score I should have shot today. I didn't really have anything going through the middle part of the round, just hanging in there, hanging in there. Hit some poor tee shots and didn't really give myself a chance. When I did, I made a couple birdies, which is nice, but I have to do a better job to give myself some more chances.

Q. What's your assessment of Round 1 with the putter?

TIGER WOODS: I rolled it well today, I really did. I hit a lot of good putts early that didn't go in. I misread a couple on the back nine, but overall I hit a lot of good putts. It was nice to feel that and it was nice to feel the putter swing.

Q. We were just talking to Rickie, obviously a quick turnaround to Round No. 2.

TIGER WOODS: We'll go off early and have no wind in the morning, greens will be smooth. Most of the good scores were shot in the morning, so hopefully we'll go out there and do (inaudible).

Q. Tiger, outside of the 6th hole, you made a lot of good shots, made a lot of putts.

TIGER WOODS: (Inaudible), then I lost it in the middle part of the round, got it back towards the end and really didn't give myself a lot of looks. On the back nine, overall I felt I hit a lot of good putts.

Q. With the putter, I did think you hit a lot of good putts. Were they just a little bit off here or there?

TIGER WOODS: I rolled it well. I mean, hey, if I'm hitting putts on my line with my speed, then I'm happy. They'll go in eventually. It's been a while since I've done that, I've hit putts where I rolled it. I've had a tight roll and I'm putting the ball on my line with speed.

Q. Per your history, this seems to be a golf course you would like. Do you like this place?

TIGER WOODS: Um-hmm, I do, I like the setup. It's tough. It's a ball-striking course and the way the greens are right now, (inaudible) in the morning. Most of the guys who are on the board are from the morning wave. Hopefully, we can do good tomorrow.

Q. Can you just kind of recap how the day went? Slow start, but you kind of hung in there and got back to even.

TIGER WOODS: Yeah, you know what, it really wasn't that slow a start. I hit a lot of good shots starting out and I hit a lot of beautiful putts starting out, nothing really went in. And I started not hitting the ball very well in the middle part of the round, got it back towards the end, made a couple birdies. Overall it was a good day, but not the day I really wanted.

Q. When did you ultimately decide to go with the new putter?

TIGER WOODS: Probably after the work I did last night. I putted for an hour and a half yesterday and really felt good with it. I put my putter down and I hit a few putts with it, it just didn't feel right, wasn't looking right. So time for it to sit on the bench a little bit. I'm sure it will come back eventually, just one of those things.

Q. How committed are you to the one you're using?

TIGER WOODS: I am very committed to it. You know, it's technology as well. We have the grooves in there just like when I was with Nike, helps roll the ball better, faster, earlier on the greens. I've always struggled on greens that are a little on the slower side and these greens aren't very quick right now and they won't be quick in three weeks' time, either. So it was a nice thing to move to a putter that rolls a little bit quicker. As I said, it has more swing to it. I've always like putters that have some swing to it.

Q. The ones that you did miss, do you put that down more to you misreading them?

TIGER WOODS: No. I hit good putts, they just didn't go in, which is fine. I don't mind that at all. I misread two putts on the back nine and so be it. But I hit a lot of good putts today on my line with the speed I wanted, so it didn't go in but I haven't done that in a while, I haven't been doing that. So that's the positive sign, to keep doing that. Eventually they'll start rolling in.

Q. How are you feeling in just getting more comfortable with the course looking forward to the weekend?

TIGER WOODS: Yeah, this course is tough. It penalizes you, except for Leish today. He hit three fairways and shoots 3 under. That's hard to do on this place. But I think that this is a golf course that it rewards good ball-striking and I've got to hit the ball a little bit better.

Q. How do you feel you responded to the tough double at the 6th?

TIGER WOODS: I just hung in there and I thought eventually I would turn it around, but I had to fight through it because I didn't hit a good drive at 10, I didn't hit a good drive at 11. Played those holes even par, which is nice to get through after poor tee shots. I hit a

beautiful drive on 14 and capped off with a nice shot into 16, made that putt.

Q. Your tee balls on 10 and 11, how do you square those shots with the irons you hit over the next six holes?

TIGER WOODS: Don't worry about it. You know, I wasn't as committed as I needed to be to hit those two shots. The one on 10, can't miss left, I missed left. So hence, can't miss left on 11, I didn't, I hit it in the bushes over there somewhere. But I hung in there. That was a good par that I made at 11, that kept the momentum somewhat on my side. I knew I had some birdie holes coming up to try to get back to under par for the day and I was close.

Q. Any concern that you dug yourself a bit of a hole? You've played a lot better on the weekends all year, but Thursday, Friday --

TIGER WOODS: Yeah, but it's one of those things where we're not too far back. Now 3 under's in 10th spot. Just have a few good holes early on the front nine or the back nine, my front nine, that all of a sudden you're right back in the game.