

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW
June 29, 2018



RICKIE FOWLER (-4)

Q. Rickie, nice little bounce-back round today, 4 under 66, including a real nice finish at 8 and 9.

RICKIE FOWLER: Yeah, it was nice to get out and play a little bit better. Early on made a couple good par saves to kind of keep the round going and had a lot of good looks today, or a lot more than yesterday. Nice to take advantage of a couple coming in as well.

Q. I think scrambling numbers today were five for five, make 11 of 13 over the first couple rounds, your short game's been good. What's been a little off, just making those putts?

RICKIE FOWLER: Well, yeah, haven't made a bunch of putts yet. Made some good ones that I needed to. Like I say, I made a few today to keep the round going, par saves. Missing the fairway by just a little bit, that obviously makes it tough to hit greens. Been putting ourselves in good spots where we've been able to save par by getting the ball up and down, so we're going to need to continue to have that when we need it because we're not going to hit every fairway through the weekend. But we can clean it up a little bit. Made some great swings coming in, so definitely build on that going into tomorrow.

Q. Is this a course where patience obviously is a key because you see some of those red numbers these guys are posting and eventually it will be your shot?

RICKIE FOWLER: Yeah, if you get out there and drive it well and put yourself in the short grass, you can definitely get after a few of these holes. There's a couple out there that are just tough golf holes, and if you drive it in the rough, it's going to be a long day. So I feel, like I said, coming in kind of my back nine, I feel like we made a lot of good swings and looking forward to driving it well over the weekend and giving ourselves some opportunities to make birdies.

Q. Rickie, how did the 14th play today and do you expect it to still be pretty short for the weekend, pretty reachable?

RICKIE FOWLER: 14's the drivable one, right? It played a little longer today than yesterday, but for the most part, as long as you don't get a strong wind into you, it's reachable every day. It's a great short par 4, great risk-reward. I hit a good one today and almost made eagle. If you bail out and hit it left there, it's a tough up-and-down, so it's a great little hole. Yeah, I would think right now it's pretty much reachable for everyone in the field.

Q. A lot of guys went low today in addition to you, but you set yourself up now for the weekend. Last year your big round was on Sunday moving up the leaderboard. Do you kind of want that to happen tomorrow instead of Sunday this year?

RICKIE FOWLER: I'll take one each day. I'm in a good spot. I would say the first 27 holes was a little so-so as far as I didn't necessarily get into a good rhythm. I missed some fairways and missed greens. I did a good job of scrambling and saving pars, but I think the last nine I think we missed -- just missed one fairway and that's what it's going to take this weekend. Did a good job of getting it in play and keeping it in the right positions. Get a few more putts to go in and we'll post some good ones this weekend.

Q. A lot of low scores yesterday morning, seemed like the same thing today. How different does the course play in the morning compared to the afternoon?

RICKIE FOWLER: I mean, it's a little softer or receptive this morning, obviously a little better greens. I think the big difference from yesterday to this morning, breeze is pretty calm out there and yesterday it was -- afternoon it was blowing a little bit, it was a little gusty and coming up from different directions. Makes you second guess at times and makes it tough when it may not be exactly where you thought it was. We'll see. I don't know if it's supposed to pick up as much as it did yesterday, but the course should start to firm up.

It's nice to know that it won't be an early tee time, so go back, relax and now we have a good time to kind of recover this afternoon and rest up and get ready for the weekend. First two rounds are done and now, like I said, the big thing is rest up, get ready for two fun days.

Q. You guys are a very tight-knit community. The orange band you're wearing on your hat, how important is that to you?

RICKIE FOWLER: Yeah, I know Jason Enloe a little bit, he's the coach at SMU, and obviously Hunter and Kandi are close with them. It is a very small community/family, this whole golf world. To be able to show our support, at least let them know that we're thinking of them and it's tough. There's a lot -- I feel like there's a lot of situations through the years where there's a lot of people that are affected in some way with cancer or illness and it's just one of the little things that we can do is just show our support and be there for them.

Q. Rickie, what's the one aspect of your game you're sort of keying on ahead of the British Open either that you need to clean up or --

RICKIE FOWLER: Ball-striking and moving it both ways and controlling the golf ball. Obviously over there you get into left-to-right wind and it definitely helps to be able to hold it a little bit. Same thing with the wind from the other direction. Hitting solid golf shots where the wind's not going to touch it as much.

Q. Is it something you're conscious of while you're out there at an event like this?

RICKIE FOWLER: Yeah, I mean, I'm working on some things to make sure we're ready for over there. Be playing the Scottish Open so that will be a nice way to lead into The Open. I have a 1-iron in the bag this week that I'm trying to work back into play that potentially we'll play at the Scottish and the British, so I have a pretty big gap right now between 4-iron and 1-iron. I think 1-iron flies 255 and 4-iron flies roughly 220.

Q. Have you had any of those gaps here?

RICKIE FOWLER: There's a little bit out there. Like I said, I'm trying to get some good swings with the 1 off the tee and this is a course that you can do it with Nos. 4, 5, a few on the back nine as well. It's definitely, like I said, making this week a little bit -- obviously want to play well and take care of this week, but there is a little bit of the links golf and get ready for the next couple weeks down the road.