

TIGER WOODS (-7)

Q. How disappointed with a 68 are you?

TIGER WOODS: Oh, it was frustrating because I played better than what my score indicates. I know I got off to a rough start bogeying 1 and very easily could have bogeyed 3, but then to get it to 3 under par for the day by the turn and I had some birdie opportunities on the back nine, didn't make them and made a couple bogeys there, too, as well. So it was frustrating because I thought that 10 under would have been a good score for me to end up at for the day and I could have easily gotten that today on the back nine.

Q. Did that long wait at the turn kind of kill the momentum?

TIGER WOODS: Not really because I stuffed it at 10 and I stuffed it at 11, I missed those putts. Hit a beautiful putt at 12, left it about an inch short of the hole. And then that's where -- you know, I messed up at 13, 14, two sloppy holes there back to back and it cost me a little bit of momentum coming in.

Q. You talked earlier in the season about a rain delay, that was a good test to see where you were at. Playing in the heat, is that kind of another test that you feel like you passed this week?

TIGER WOODS: Yeah, these are all little milestones, I guess you could say. Playing under slower conditions, cold initially this year early, which I thought was going to be the most difficult. I didn't know how my back would react to playing, like in Tampa it was in the 40s when we were warming up there and playing early. This week is just, you know, how fit am I. I know my legs are strong from all the legwork we've done, so I don't have a problem with my strength and my endurance, it's just a matter of keeping focus out here in this heat.

Q. What do you think of your putting?

TIGER WOODS: I've putted well. Today was -- I made some early, missed a couple on that back nine. Every putt I missed on the back nine except for 18 were all high side, I just blew it through the high side three putts in a row. Frustrating.

Q. Tiger, how important was 3 to getting the momentum and sort of --

TIGER WOODS: You know, it was key because what I thought it was a simple up-and-down at 2, didn't turn out to be that way. My ball was sitting down in the bunker and I couldn't get any spin on it, so it went long and again another high-side miss. Then I made that nice one at 3 and I just got rolling after that. I felt good all week with my putter, it's just a

matter of making putts and I've done that.

Q. Tomorrow's target?

TIGER WOODS: Depends what they do. I'm curious to see what they do with the golf course, if they keep letting it dry out or are they going to protect it against this heat. If they let it dry out, then the scores won't be as low tomorrow, but if they protect it, then everybody's been making birdies everywhere here. I'm going to have to -- either way I'm going to have to shoot a low round to try to give myself a chance, but I would hope that it would be drier because it gives me a little better chance.

Q. What were your options on your second shot on 18?

TIGER WOODS: I was just trying not to hit the ball to -- past the front edge. Anything short and right, which I was trying to do. Rough turned it left and it just knuckled left and end up in a bunker, but I was just trying not to hit it past the hole because it's only three paces from the right so anything past it, you have no angle to it.

Q. Tiger, when you say I hit a good putt and it didn't go in, is it something invisible to us as you say maybe --

TIGER WOODS: No, I don't mind hitting good putts and having them not go in. If I hit the ball on my line with my speed, if it goes in, it goes in, great, but as long as I'm rolling the ball on my line with my speed. If I can do like I've done most of my career, putts go in. You're going to have days where you don't make them, so be it. But as long as I can keep doing that consistently, I'll have my share where I will make putts like I did earlier on the front nine today, like I did yesterday. But the first day was key because I rolled the ball on my line with the correct speed again, which I hadn't done in a while. It's been a couple months where I haven't done that, but this week has been a little bit different.