

RICKIE FOWLER (-5)

Q. How would you assess the round?

RICKIE FOWLER: Good start to the week. A little slow the first few holes, but feel like we did a good job of just keep moving forward after the bogey on the third hole. Good start on Thursday and a lot of golf to go.

Q. You've been here last year. Can you just describe this? We have seven Mexicans, Argentinians, Chileans. You've seen this change how the tour's going to the Latino world. What's your thoughts?

RICKIE FOWLER: It's definitely nice to see more Latin players from Mexico, from South America. I think one of the big influences, Angel Cabrera, but also having the Latinoamerica Tour now with the PGA TOUR involved and having tournaments down there, some of the Web events are down in Mexico to South America. But I think some of the kids that you're seeing out playing well now, I think a big influence or big impact was because of guys like Angel Cabrera. We're only going to see more and more in the years to come.

Q. When you come to Mayakoba, what do you enjoy the most of a different routine from being in a Tour event when you're here in Mexico?

RICKIE FOWLER: It's very relaxing. It's a nice, fun week. The golf course is fun, so I enjoy playing it. I've played well on it. But outside of that, staying on the beach at Rosewood, good food, have some drinks here and there. Kind of like a mini vacation with a tournament that happens to be going on at the same time.

Q. Vacation get paid for, no?

RICKIE FOWLER: Well, hopefully. Got to make sure you have a tee time on Saturday.

Q. Rickie, how you feel today?

RICKIE FOWLER: It was a good day. A little slow start making bogey on the third hole, but other than that, I feel like we did a good job just hanging in there and kept moving forward. Played well on the back nine, which was the front nine since we started on 10, so happy with the start. A lot of golf to be played, but I'm excited. I feel like we have a good chance to put ourselves in contention for the week and have some fun on Sunday.

Q. What do you need to improve on for tomorrow?

RICKIE FOWLER: I need to drive the ball a little bit better so I can have control of the ball out of the fairway. I felt like there were a lot of good things out there today. I feel like between one of the next three rounds we'll have one that will definitely be a low one, and hopefully we can keep the other two similar to how it was today. We'll just keep moving forward, and when the birdies start kind of piling in, we'll just hold on and run with it.

Q. Rickie, 5 under par after day one, how would you assess your round out there?

RICKIE FOWLER: Good day. I got off to a little bit of a slow start bogeying No. 12, my third hole, but did a good job after that, kind of continued just to move forward. After making the turn, made a couple birdies and played the normal front nine but our back nine, played it well and happy with the start. A lot of golf to be played, and definitely enjoy the times that we've been down here at Mayakoba last year and off to a good start. I know we can play well here and we'll continue to do so.

Q. Was one of the differences just the putter for you? Earlier it felt like you had a couple looks out there and they just didn't go.

RICKIE FOWLER: I had a couple looks. I didn't drive it particularly well to start out. Need to get the ball in the fairway a little bit more tomorrow, but I hit some good putts, made some. Missed a short one on 15, which was our sixth hole, but that was just a misread, I hit a good putt. So hit a lot of good ones, speed was good, and hopefully no more misreads and we'll make some more putts in the next three.

Q. With the success that you've had here, do you feel like you can navigate this golf course and you're very comfortable on this golf course?

RICKIE FOWLER: Yeah, definitely comfortable around here, I feel like it's a good variety. There's some tight driving holes, there's some that have room, but you feel like for the most part they always give you an option to have a safe option. You can challenge the golf course a little bit, but there's a lot of trouble out there if you do miss your spot or miss your line. Very much you've got to get the ball in play off the tee and then you can kind of go from there and attack it. With the greens being on the softer side, especially a day like today where there wasn't much wind, I don't think there's supposed to be much more tomorrow, and then hopefully we can dodge some storms over the weekend.

Q. Rickie, a really strong threesome playing with Emiliano and Aaron, the three of you playing amazing golf. Is this sort of a motivation being with players that are also hitting really well?

RICKIE FOWLER: Definitely makes it easier to continue to play well when you're playing with two other guys that are doing the same and you can kind of feed off of each other. Two guys, two great guys, Grillo and Aaron, so we had a good time out there. Same thing tomorrow, it would be nice if we can all go out and play well and kind of keep pushing each other and get into the weekend.

Q. (No microphone.)

RICKIE FOWLER: No, I mean, we're kind of used to playing at that pace. And the three of us are fairly quick players, so we're going to end up waiting a bit, but kind of used to it. Yeah, hopefully you're never really in a position where you have to wait too long, but it was fine out there today. Yeah, it took a while to play, but that was kind of normal pace, so used to the waits here and there.

Q. Rickie, today there was a lot of fanatics watching on you and it's Thursday, it's the first day.

RICKIE FOWLER: Yeah, it's nice to see some people out on a Thursday. Typically, after being here last year, it starts to pick up and a lot more people come out on Saturday and Sunday so it will get a little bit more crowded. So it was great to see some people out taking advantage of not as many people being out. They can enjoy the day, some good weather, get to see some golf. But this weekend, looking forward to seeing more people out. It will get a bit more busy.

Q. (No microphone.)

RICKIE FOWLER: Relax, hang out, we'll just go probably hang on the beach and probably not do a whole lot.

Q. I know you finished runner-up here last year, a little slow start but then you got it going?

RICKIE FOWLER: Yeah, I just got off to a so-so start there. I missed a couple balls in the left rough and made a bogey on the third hole, the 12th there. But made a nice putt on the next, got things kind of back to where we needed to go. Guys were out taking advantage of the good scoring conditions, so I had to play catch-up through the middle and into the round. But nice to finish it off, get off to a good start and ready to go get it the next few days.

Q. You've always been a really good driver of the golf ball. Is that an advantage for you here?

RICKIE FOWLER: It is. I feel like this golf course, off the tee is kind of the primary focus. From there you can kind of attack the golf course. First and foremost, get it in the fairway or in play. You don't want to hit it in the native areas or the hazards, there's plenty of those out there. So avoid those kind of at all costs and then, like I said, then from there you can kind of attack. Softer greens, they're not running too fast so you can -- once you're playing a little bit of smart offense off the tee, you can kind of full attack from the fairway.

Q. Obviously a good start last week, tied for fourth out in Vegas. Starting to get a feel of things as we wind down the season a little bit?

RICKIE FOWLER: Yeah, I feel like we were able to shake off a good amount of rust last week putting up a nice round on Sunday. Excited to pick up where we left off, get off to a solid start today and looking forward to continuing to play well.