ROUND 1 INTERVIEW December 7, 2018



TONY FINAU LEXI THOMPSON (-11)

Q. She took a little pressure off of you. How impressed were you with her play today?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, really impressed. You know, she hits the ball incredibly and she made a lot of putts, which took a lot of pressure off me. We were a good team today and, you know, we had some opportunities. I feel like actually we left a couple out there. We had some opportunities where we could capitalize, but overall I was obviously really proud of the way she plays and really proud to be her partner.

Q. Some really sweet memories on this golf course, a place that you got your first and only win of the season in the season finale, the CME TOUR Championship, but playing from the men's tees, just how different does the course set up that way?

LEXI THOMPSON: It's certainly a bit different going from 6,500 yards to 7,400 yards or whatever it is. It's a very big difference. But I like the scramble so I could use Tony's drives, that helped me out a bit out there. But I always like a challenge. I grew up playing with my older brothers and going all the way back to the tips with them. Kind of used to it, but it's still a big challenge.

Q. Great dynamic out there today. What was going well, how were you meshing?

TONY FINAU: I feel like we got off to a nice start making some birdies early. Just kind of rolled with that momentum I feel like throughout the round. We ham-and-egged it pretty good. She hit it in play every hole, which takes a lot of pressure off me off the tee. I decided to hit driver quite a few more times than I naturally would just so I could kind of advance the ball up with her in the middle of the fairway. It changes my strategy a little bit, but we ham-and-egged it nicely out there and happy with the way we played.

LEXI THOMPSON: Yeah, exactly. I always teed off first, so I just got one in the fairway so he could can take driver and get the shortest shot in possible so we can both hit from there. I wouldn't say that my drives were used very much, but it was a great day out there. He played awesome like usual, and it's impressive to watch the guys out here and just a huge honor to be playing in this event once again.

Q. You're just as impressive, your putts were incredible out there today.

LEXI THOMPSON: Thank you.

Q. How much does playing out here a couple weeks ago and that momentum help you?

LEXI THOMPSON: Yeah, it helps me out a lot. I love coming back here. I don't have as big of an entourage with my family out here, but it's just nice to be able to come back. A lot of great memories here. The course is in the best shape I've ever seen it. I was just happy to be able to come back and get the invite from Greg.