

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW
February 22, 2019



TOMMY FLEETWOOD (-7)

Q. Tommy, well done. Eagle-eagle, I don't think we've ever seen this here at the WGC. Smiles are beaming, obviously.

TOMMY FLEETWOOD: It was a good start, yeah. Very nice to get off to a fast start like that, and then you just have to kind of just keep pushing on then really. Got yourself back into a good position. It's perfect, something to build on is always nice, so eagle-eagle is just about the right way to do it.

Q. Kuch was up there starting with four birdies, but I think you overshadowed him.

TOMMY FLEETWOOD: Maybe, maybe. He was a lot more consistent than me over those four holes. It's good when you're playing really well. Kuch, you knew he was up there or one of the ones leading, so it was nice to just have him -- knowing where he stands really, but still nice to know where you are.

Q. Obviously you've got very fond memories here, especially 2017. Coming off a busy schedule and obviously a tough week last week, how's the energy?

TOMMY FLEETWOOD: Absolutely fine, yeah. The later starts make a big difference this week, I've been enjoying waking up at (inaudible) 5 a.m. Last two weeks have been pretty hard. So it's been nice just to go to bed at a nice time and get up leisurely. That always helps, sleep always takes care of everything.

Q. As both of you were making a lot of progress up the leaderboard, were either of you checking out to see how either Rory or DJ were doing?

TOMMY FLEETWOOD: It's hard to miss just because of the electronic scoreboards, you know what they're doing. It's so early that it doesn't really make that much difference. At the end of the day, if they're getting away, you can't do anything about it. You can only concentrate on your stuff. I just have to keep going.

I felt like I played really well, had a good mindset and, you know, yeah, you always know where you are just because of the leaderboards, but in the middle of Round 2 it's not really something to worry about.

Q. In all seriousness, have you ever started eagle-eagle, even when you were a kid?

TOMMY FLEETWOOD: No, no. It's not something that happens very often, is it? I'll take it, though. It's a good way to start, a good way to get a little bit of momentum.

Q. After you did that, did they say anything funny walking to the third tee?

TOMMY FLEETWOOD: No, but I thought like hole-in-one, it's really going well. Stenson made a couple funny remarks, but like you're just getting on with your game. I just picked out of the hole, went and stood at the side and think about maybe -- you don't really get a chance to enjoy much around this golf course just because there's always something coming up, there's always a way of getting yourself out of position.

So it was great, and I think it was good because I didn't finish very well yesterday, so I sort of played pretty well yesterday. Hit a couple of bad shots towards the end and dropped, so it was nice to actually catapult myself up there early on and kind of just go from there and kind of keep moving forward.

Q. Can you walk us through the first two holes?

TOMMY FLEETWOOD: Yeah. The first hole was me 5-wood, pitched -- it was going like 260 on the range, meters, and I think it was -- it was playing 267 to the front, but the wind was pushing it and I'm hitting off a tee. So great shot, tried to sort of (inaudible) it up, it was kind of bracing as it was going.

And then the second, a great drive. And again, it's just one of them chips you kind of -- the second's a raised green so you kind of pick a landing spot but you don't quite know what it's going to do from there. You know, I landed it pretty much where I wanted to and just sort of took it from there really. Didn't really -- (inaudible) I wouldn't have been able to tell you that it was going in, just sort of wandered up and it went in. So it was back-to-back happy days.

Q. What did you do on 3?

TOMMY FLEETWOOD: I missed the green.

Q. Sorry. Anybody ever quit the game after that?

TOMMY FLEETWOOD: Yeah, it was terrible. Actually holed a good putt on 3. I had a terrible lie over the back of the green, chipped it on to about five, six feet and then holed that putt, which is, you know, again you've gone eagle-eagle, you don't really want to give one back. It wasn't a hard pin, it was just a little bit out with my tee shot. So it was -- that was a big putt as well really. Eagle-eagle and bogey, and you kind of drop one. It was good to hole that one and just sort of keep going.

Q. You made a run at winning here earlier in your career, you're in contention now. What is it you like about this place? Does it suit you?

TOMMY FLEETWOOD: I think overall there's so many different ways to play the holes, there's so many irons you can hit off tees, but you can also be quite aggressive with driver.

Driving is clearly a strength of my game, and I think when I have done well on days like today, I've been quite aggressive off some tees and I drove it really well, and then you're in position from there. Makes the course a lot easier because it's so easy just to get a little out of position.

I think in general I'm a pretty patient person and there's things that are going to go wrong. You're going to get wedge shots that you miss the green with just because of the way it is. You're going to get holes like 17 where I three-putted. I hit my first putt a little bit too hard, horrible around the hole in three. But you've got to do stuff like that and I think overall I'm a pretty sort of patient person and I'm good at getting on with it after mistakes, so I think that has helped me in the past.