

RICKIE FOWLER (-4)

Q. Rickie, if we can get some comments on day one.

RICKIE FOWLER: Drove it poorly, but the last, say, seven holes or so I finally hit some better drives. Was able to take advantage of finally being in the fairway. Fun day playing with Kiz and Charles. We had a good time out there with each other.

Highlight for me, eighth hole, No. 17 on the course, but dunked a wedge. So that was a nice way to kind of have something happen in the middle of the round.

Q. Rickie, does the driver really start the domino effect in a positive way? I mean, hitting the fairway?

RICKIE FOWLER: Yeah. Out here you can see that Kiz I think had it to seven through 12 holes. He was driving it well, playing from the fairway. You can control the balls to the greens and give yourself chances, so he was taking care of that.

Meanwhile, I think I had only hit a couple fairways to that point and was just trying to hang around. Made one birdie and had the hole-out. And then kind of, like I said, the last six holes or so I finally hit some fairways with driver. If you drive it well out here, you can make a lot of birdies. I think 8, 9, 10 under is not out of the question on a day like today. We took care of what we needed to with not having a great day off the tee and just making sure we got it in the house. You know, post something and not a bad one.

Q. Rickie, in calm conditions, is it tough to get a gauge for the score you need just to keep pace, that sort of thing?

RICKIE FOWLER: Yeah, you really don't know what guys are going to do. Obviously it's very scorable. The greens are still soft, receptive, but you have to drive it. I feel like it's fairly generous off the tee out here, but you can't be much offline or out of the fairways by a lot or you start dealing with some trees and stuff like that, and it can get tough to scramble out here. But if you drive it well, I mean, it's easy to hit greens and kind of make -- you can make kind of a stress-free, you know, mid-60s round pretty quickly out here. But you have to drive it well and that was something I struggled with, like I said, early on. Charles and Kev did a good job of that and they made it look pretty simple out there.

Q. (Inaudible) when you go play the stretch 14, 15, 16 when the big crowds come?

RICKIE FOWLER: We had a nice crowd all day. That was early in our round, so we had more people for our back nine, which is the front nine today. No, it's definitely nice to have

the turnout that we've had so far. I know we'll have even more people tomorrow and I know the weekend's sold out. It's great to see the support here.

Q. The last couple days you've been sort of a brand ambassador.

RICKIE FOWLER: I am a brand ambassador.

Q. I know. Is it hard to flip the switch, though, to get it to (inaudible)?

RICKIE FOWLER: No. I mean, it makes for a little busier week, especially the few days leading up to it, but it's fun being partners and associated with I would say a company with -- I mean, obviously the Rock family, Dan Gilbert built kind of an empire. But to be associated with him and Rocket Mortgage, to help get the tournament here to Detroit with everything that Dan Gilbert's done for the area and Detroit, it's pretty impressive. So happy to help out, glad to be a part of it and it's been a fun partnership.