ROUND 1 INTERVIEW August 23, 2019

FRED FUNK (-8)



Q. Incredible round for you obviously, lowest round for you at this course. Can you just talk about what was working for you today?

FRED FUNK: I had everything working today. I had the putter working, I had a lot of really close putts. I knocked the flag down on a few of them.

I really only hit -- I looked at it, I really only hit one bad shot and that was the second shot on four where I just laid the sod over it, made my only bogey.

I just did a lot of good stuff. Probably the biggest mistake I made was laying up little too close to that pin on 18, which was my ninth hole, and it left me an awkward shot. I did the same thing on 1, but I got away with it because I made about a 25-footer. You know, it was really good.

I mean, I've been really struggling the last two and a half, three years with my back. I've had surgery and they say I need another one eventually. I'm just -- I was just hoping -- really my goal was just to finish the tournaments this year to satisfy a lot of my -- two of my sponsors.

Today was a good start to a golf course that I usually don't have a great history here, that's for sure. I do have one history of making a 12 on 13, and the irony of that was my best shot of that day was that tee shot. I hit a 5-iron that landed right where it was supposed to and rolled over the green. The canyon was not marked hazard that year, so that was the only year they did that and I just filled up the canyon. I walked off with 12. So I kind of shake when I go to that tee.

Really, the most excitement, when I ended up birdieing six and eight and I got it -- I got where I could make another birdie, I would shoot my age. Had that putt on the last hole to do it. I really wanted that putt really bad. That would have been really cool to be 63 and shoot 63. Anyway, maybe tomorrow.

Q. You didn't miss the fairway all day long, right?

FRED FUNK: I don't know. I think I probably hit them all, yeah.

Q. I watched and the score said you didn't miss one all day long.

FRED FUNK: Yeah, I don't think I did. Yeah, I think I did hit them all, but they're big fairways.

Q. Do you hear people yelling at you from the houses?

FRED FUNK: Oh, yeah, yeah.

Q. What do you think about that?

FRED FUNK: Oh, that's awesome. It's neat that they yell down, "Go Freddie," or "Go Funky," or "Play that funky music," or whatever they did over on No. 5. They were in the backyards there. Yeah, I said, "If you're going to shout all that out, you've got to dance to it," and then they started dancing to it.

Q. Not to get too far ahead of ourselves here, but 63, you would be the oldest player to win on this tour should you win on Sunday. What would that mean to you?

FRED FUNK: Oldest player to win on this tour, period?

Q. Yeah.

FRED FUNK: Wow, that would be cool. There's a long way to go on this golf course, but if I play as steady and give myself as many opportunities as I did today, even though I don't hit it far enough to really think that I could take advantage of these -- like the par 5s here, but today I just, everything was working. It was fun. You know, I'm just going to enjoy tonight and worry about tomorrow and Sunday when they come around. If I can keep giving myself opportunities, that would be a lot of fun. And keep that putter, man, my putter was beautiful today. That was great.

Q. No hiking this trip, right?

FRED FUNK: I can't, I can't with my back. I wanted to.

Q. You have priorities?

FRED FUNK: I know, yeah. That one year I hiked every single day and I got to Friday and I was gone. I would get over -- my butt hurt so bad, I'd get over it and I'd shake. That was stupid. But it's hard not to, it's so pretty out here.