

FRED COUPLES (-16)

Q. That was amazing. I'm sitting there watching the ninth hole.

FRED COUPLES: Oh, you saw that?

Q. I'm thinking nothing's really going on, right? You just parred another par 5, you missed a lot of putts. Then what happened?

FRED COUPLES: It went in. It was a good shot obviously. You know, I think it was 208 yards and I'm just trying to hit the green. I just told Billy that Doug, who's probably as long as I am or longer, hit a 3-iron right over the flag and I don't have a 3-iron. So I thought, you know, I'm going to rip a 4, which may have helped a little bit. I hit it really solid right at it and it hit -- I don't know how it went in. It just hit and popped in. Then I birdied a whole ton of holes after that.

Q. What goes through your mind when you hole one like that?

FRED COUPLES: Well, you know, everyone hits a lot of really good shots. Very rarely do any shots ever go in, even if you're hitting 7-irons to par 4s. Everyone's out here played two rounds now. I don't know how many people have holed shots, but it's a little shocking. Probably more shocking on a par 3 than if you hole a 7-iron out on the fourth hole or fifth hole. But I looked at Fred and I thought, holy cow. Then I saw Doug, and my caddie was laughing because I really haven't come close to a hole-in-one in a long time.

Q. How many do you have?

FRED COUPLES: I have six now. I told Cheney five, but I forgot I made one with the boys at Big Canyon.

Q. Is this your first in the Seattle area?

FRED COUPLES: Well, I made -- probably my second. When I was 10 I made a hole-in-one and I was the only one playing, so a lot of people --

Q. Gypsum short mine?

FRED COUPLES: Yeah, it was on the short nine a hundred years ago. But I did make, I did make it, whether they believe me or not.

Q. That obviously kick started your whole round. After that you started hitting great

shots.

FRED COUPLES: I did. I mean, that little crafty little 10th hole I birdied, which was really, really nice. And then they all just started to seem to go close to the hole and I made putts. It was nice. I drew a really good lie on 18. I mean, I could have hit -- most people would have gotten that really close, and it's not my forte flip 'em up there, but that was a great lie and I made it look easier because of the lie.

Q. You just broke the 36-hole record at this tournament. You haven't really put your name on the record books here. How much does that mean to you?

FRED COUPLES: Well, you know, I need to put it on the final book, whatever they're calling that, on the trophy. You know, I'm in obviously great shape. I don't know what -- I know people have shot 60 here before. I don't know what he shot the first round. But that's pretty good. I mean, David Toms on the front nine was behind us and his caddie told my caddie he had it really rolling. I didn't know until he started posting scores and I'm making these birdies on 10, 11, 12 and I look back and I finally saw a score of 63, so I'm like wow. And then I just inched my way up and the five-shot lead, which is nice.

Q. Nine years ago, tied for the lead going into the Senior Open. That's been your last probably realistic chance here since then. How excited are you to play tomorrow?

FRED COUPLES: Yeah, every year I come up here I'm excited to play. I hope we get another major up here. I mean, that was -- I don't care what anyone says, that was the biggest U.S. Open I played in. I don't play in every one of them, but we had 20,000 people a day on a really good course. The weather was unreal and everyone loved it. Now we never come back here and think about it. Tomorrow's going to be a great day. We'll see. I'm going to have to -- these guys aren't shooting -- they're not far behind. I mean, Toms, they're all 5 and 6 under, so I'm going to have to shoot whatever I have to shoot. I don't want to win by one, I would like to win by nine. That would be easier.

Q. Mariners or Seahawks?

FRED COUPLES: I'm going to watch a little of them both, but when it Russell going to play, early or late?

Q. Well, first three quarters probably.

FRED COUPLES: All right. Then I'll watch them. Mariners, there's 30 games left, right? I've seen them play a lot of games this year at home.