

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW
January 23, 2020



TIGER WOODS (-3)

Q. You've had a lot of great experience over the years on these two golf courses, the first tournament of the year so you're trying to get all the feels back, but the short game looked really impressive. How about that par save at 8, that was really nice.

TIGER WOODS: That was nice, that was nice. It was nice to kind of keep the round going a little bit and, you know, overall pleased to shoot something in the 60s today. The golf course was definitely gettable today.

Q. We saw the new driver in the bag. Rob told me yesterday you're getting a few extra yards out there. You got Jon Rahm a couple times. How would you grade the performance of that new SIM driver?

TIGER WOODS: Well, I felt like I drove it a little bit better today. I can't keep up with Rambo, are you kidding me? When he decides to let one go, I just don't have that gear anymore. But I feel like I hit the ball -- my start lines were a little bit tighter today, which was nice. Overall very pleased to kind of get something in the red and head over to South tomorrow.

Q. Lastly, you told us a couple days ago about managing adrenaline, it's a new season, a new year and just getting that back. How much were you feeling that adrenaline today?

TIGER WOODS: Oh, I definitely was feeling it. I missed the competition, competing and trying to -- try and keep everything as calm as I possibly could. I didn't do a very good job of that starting out, I made a quick bogey there. I felt like I fought back and there's a lot of positives heading into the South Course.

Q. Tiger, good to see you. First round out at Torrey. How would you reflect on that start?

TIGER WOODS: Yeah, I felt it was a positive start. The golf course is definitely gettable today, for sure. I felt like I did a good job and have a lot of positives heading into the South Course tomorrow.

Q. What are the big feelings for you heading into the South, traditionally kind of the tougher of the two, but a place you know pretty well?

TIGER WOODS: I could know the golf course, but it's the South Course, it's going to be playing a little more difficult than the North. I haven't seen any of the leaderboards, I don't

know what they're doing on the South compared to the North, but I felt like today the North was certainly gettable today.

Q. As I mentioned, what this place means to you in terms of the victories in your career, just a feel-good factor for you coming back, what emotions do you feel? You look back, do you remember some special moments, the crowds out there today? What does it mean?

TIGER WOODS: It goes back to this is the first professional golf tournament I ever went to with my dad, the old Andy Williams. It has a lot of great memories. I played here in junior golf, Junior World, and I've won I think eight times out here on this golf course.

But it's amazing how much it has changed over the years. When I first came down here, there was a lot of 1-irons off the tees and now the 1-iron doesn't exist anymore in golf bags.

But overall I feel like I had a lot of good vibes when I come down here to San Diego and a lot of great memories.

Q. Tiger, 69. I know it wasn't the best. If it wasn't for the little wedges, I think it was actually really, really good?

TIGER WOODS: Overall, I felt like the golf course was definitely gettable today. Par 5s were all reachable, so I felt like I had to get something in the red. Felt like I was able to do that. Felt like I drove it a little bit better today, which was nice. Overall I got something out of the 60s.

Q. Is it nice to play the North, playing a little longer so when you go to the South it's not so much a shocker?

TIGER WOODS: Well, we all know the South is going to be the more difficult of the two courses. As I said, the golf course was definitely gettable today. I don't know how any of the scores are comparable between the two golf courses yet, but I certainly think the North Course was a little bit easier than the South today.

Q. You drove it well. Were you pleased with the new sticks today?

TIGER WOODS: Yeah, I was. I felt like the start lines were a little bit tighter, which was nice. Felt like I shaped the ball well off the tees. I didn't quite get as many fairways as I needed to today, but overall all my misses were in good spots.

Q. How much of that new driver testing is eyeball stuff versus relying on launch monitors for you?

TIGER WOODS: I think it's both. You know, it's nice having the launch monitors now because you make adaptations a little bit quicker, but still it's about what does it look like in

my window. Through the testing I was certainly able to pick up a few more miles an hour, which was nice, but today I kind of just chipped it around a little bit today and I didn't quite let it go. Felt like I just had to miss the ball in the correct spots, which I was able to do all day today.

Q. What's the biggest adaptation you had to make with this new golf ball?

TIGER WOODS: I felt like I picked up maybe probably a quarter of a club in my irons, which was nice, without sacrificing any spin around the greens. I think it's a little bit better in the wind, into the wind. I don't feel like I have to flight the ball as much as I did with my other ball, I don't have to lean on it as much, so technology certainly helps.

Q. You still have a lot of golf to play, but you won here seven times at Farmers, once with the U.S. Open. What would it be like to win your 83rd here at Torrey Pines?

TIGER WOODS: It would be great. I also won a Junior World here, too.

Q. There you go.

TIGER WOODS: Yeah. I have a lot of great memories here. It's great to be back. As I was telling Lisa over here, this was my first tournament I ever went to with my dad, the old Andy Williams, so we've been coming down here a long time. I've played here since I was single digits in age all the way through. This golf course has a lot of great memories and hopefully tomorrow I can piece all that together again like I did today.

Q. The short shots at 10 and 18, disappointing given the position you were in?

TIGER WOODS: Yeah, well, I felt like I -- I could probably maybe could have gotten maybe one or two more out of my round today, but overall I felt like it was a good start, especially going into the South Course. As I said, I don't know what the guys did on the South Course in relation to the North, but I felt like the golf course was certainly gettable today.

Q. First time playing with Collin (inaudible)?

TIGER WOODS: Well, he's a lot younger than I am. It was great to be out there with him. Got a chance to meet him for the first time in Japan last year. He hits it solid. I mean, he's not a real big guy, but hits the ball very solid and has a very, very bright career ahead of him.

Q. (Inaudible) the start of the season with the field here and everything it involves?

TIGER WOODS: Well, it's certainly the start of my season. I know that we have this wraparound schedule, but for me, heading into the west coast and starting out the year here, that's normally how I've done it in the past and felt like the season is just getting started.