

TIGER WOODS (-4)

Q. Takeaways from today, Tiger?

TIGER WOODS: Well, it was a good middle part of the round. Not exactly the best of starts, but figured it out and turned it around. Unfortunately, made a mistake at 17 that cost me a shot. Good birdie at 18, though.

Q. How much different did the South Course play than the North Course for you?

TIGER WOODS: For me? Let's just put it this way: It played a lot harder than yesterday. Everyone except for Ryan, he's the only one that kind of figured it out.

Q. What actually happened on 1 today with the --

TIGER WOODS: No, it just -- just poa. I tried to ram it in the hole and it bounced, and hit obviously a terrible third putt, pulled it. The second putt, it's just what happens on poa. I tried to take the break out and it just bounced.

Q. After the fifth you missed a couple of chances and after that it seemed to be fine, you putted nicely after that.

TIGER WOODS: Well, it's one of those things where I feel like I was hitting putts on my lines, but they didn't stay on the lines. Just trying to make sure that I had a lot of putts that were uphill that I could take the break out and got it in there.

Q. After all these years you still have such an effect on the fans. Do they have an effect on you?

TIGER WOODS: Absolutely.

Q. And how are the fans at Torrey compared to fans around the world?

TIGER WOODS: Well, the people here, probably about 15 or 20 people that I've seen pretty much every year and they've been out here the last two days. It's nice to have basically like almost like a hometown tournament. Here and Riv, it's just been amazing throughout the years. A lot of people came out today, which is nice.

Q. Do you feel like you're hitting it, playing well enough to win if you could start a little faster?

TIGER WOODS: Well, I've hit a lot of good shots, which is nice. I'm driving the ball a lot better, which is nice. You know, when you get on poa, it's just a matter of the ball's bouncing in or bouncing out. I felt like I did a really good job of leaving the ball below the hole for the middle part of my round and I made those putts.

Q. There's a lot of talk about 83 when you're out here. Do you ever let that creep into your head at all or does it go shot by shot?

TIGER WOODS: Well, shot by shot got me to 82. It's one of those things where it's just a process, it's a marathon, it's four days, it's a long haul. Just trying to be there at the end and you never know what happens at the end.

Q. Do you wish they would just blow up 1 and start over on 1 South?

TIGER WOODS: It's just the way it goes, just one of those things. In '08 I got off to a bad start but ended up winning the tournament. Hopefully that's the case this year.

Q. You've got to be pretty happy with your long game, though, like 4, great iron shot on 4 and the next hole. Hit a lot of good irons and also good drives, too, except for one or two.

TIGER WOODS: Yeah, I am excited about the way overall that I felt like I'm driving the golf ball. My short game's been really sharp, just a matter of getting the ball in the right spots to make some more putts.

Q. Tiger, is your experience here at Torrey that you're never out of it if you can just get yourself to the weekend?

TIGER WOODS: That's what happened in '99. I shot 62-65 on the weekend. Different golf course, though, than it was then. If you make the cut on the number here, anything can happen on the South Course, especially the way it's playing now. It's so much more difficult and I think so much more volatile because of the fact that if you shoot a good round out here on the South, you'll move up the board.

Q. What's the most important thing you're going to need to do this weekend now that everyone will be on the South Course if you're going to get in contention to try and win this?

TIGER WOODS: Keep driving it the way I'm driving it and make sure I can get the ball below the hole. The putts, the greens are quick and they're bouncy, so that's a tough combo when you're above the hole. If you leave it below the hole, take the break out, ram it and take the low line.

Q. Did 17 go high on the face or what happened?

TIGER WOODS: No, I just hit it off the toe. I was trying to draw it in there, draw it off the bunker and just toed it.

Q. Feeling better about the golf ball --

TIGER WOODS: Yeah.

Q. -- knowing that it's a little bit longer?

TIGER WOODS: It is longer, it's no doubt. I hit a couple shots that went through the wind a little bit. That was one of the things I was noticing when I was at home in Florida testing. It's always different come game time, hitting the shots in a tournament than I felt like, yeah, the ball was getting through the wind a little bit more. I was able to get some more out of some of my clubs, which I, especially into the windy, normally have to lean on just a touch and keep that shaft angled a little bit, but this ball's going through the wind a little bit better.