

ROUND 4 INTERVIEW
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TONY FINAU (-10)

Q. Can you just talk about how you heard and just your immediate emotions?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, well, I'm still processing it. I'm a huge Kobe fan and a Laker fan because of -- single-handedly because of Kobe Bryant. So I heard just off of the 18th green, my manager was here to greet me. We're both huge Laker fans. My manager lives in L.A., Chris Armstrong, and drove up just to give me the news. That will probably give you an idea of how much an impact Kobe was in my life just as a sports junkie. I'm a huge fan of basketball, the NBA and the Lakers, and in huge part because of Kobe Bryant.

So again, I think it's still pretty fresh on me. I just heard in the last maybe six or seven minutes. But to have that happen to one of the greatest ever to play the game of basketball and just I think one of the greatest athletes in sports is so tragic. I'll be mourning with the NBA and just anyone who knew him or was impacted by him, I definitely was, and very sad, sad day for sports and just people in general.

Q. What was it about Kobe that drew you to him so much growing up?

TONY FINAU: Oh, he was a star. I think just like anybody else, as a kid you're watching the best and he was the best at what he did. For five, six years there in the mid 2000s he was the best player in the NBA.

His work ethic I think is something that will be talked about, that's what his legacy is I think. The Mamba Mentality is a book that I've read. I remember actually wearing his shoes out here in 2016 just giving him props for the Mamba mentality and kind of what he taught a lot of athletes in pursuing your dreams. I think his legacy for sure is one of hard work and commitment to your craft. That's Kobe Bryant. And again, quite sad at the moment.

Q. Did it ripple around the course? It seemed like everybody who heard, it seemed like the very next thing they said was that can't be true, they can't believe it. What is it about him that created that much disbelief that this was possible and in fact true?

TONY FINAU: Well, just how healthy he was. You know, it's a surprise because of the way it happened. So tragic.

I was just telling my manager, I've experienced something like this in my life before. My mom passed away in a tragic car accident in 2011. It's crazy that some of those feelings that I had at that time are back. That's how much Kobe meant to me at a different magnitude. The love of a mother is one that I think you can't replace, but to have some of those feelings come back when I heard the news makes me quite sad and I'll be mourning.

I'll be mourning for him.

But more so, I think the way to live a life that respects Kobe and that he would respect is one to have the Mamba mentality. Maybe that's something that I need, work even harder at your craft and have more love for your craft and maybe that's something that we all need as athletes, to have that Mamba mentality.