

TONY FINAU (-11)

Q. Tony, how do you assess your round today?

TONY FINAU: Just gave myself some looks, and I made a nice eagle on 7, which kind of got my round going. Birdied 8 and I just kind of rolled some momentum in from there. I really wanted one. I hit a good tee shot on 17 and a good second shot into 18 and wanted to at least get one more before the end of the round, but I was happy with the sixth.

Q. How was the course playing out there today?

TONY FINAU: It was good. tricky little pins in certain areas and things, but still very scorable. If you hit it in the fairway, I think you're going to see some, like you have the first couple days, some really good scoring.

Q. Has the course firmed up at all over these last couple days?

TONY FINAU: Not really, not particularly, yeah. I thought maybe they would, but it's playing very similar to the first couple days. A couple more back pins, which makes it a little tougher on this golf course because it's not very firm, so to get at those from the fairway, you have to have some spin control and things like that, but overall I think it's playing pretty similar to the first couple days.

Q. Do you think it's going to be just as scorable this afternoon as it was for you this morning?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, I believe so. I don't see any reason why it wouldn't be. Obviously being first out is great, you've got fresh greens and I learned that early. I hit a bunch of putts that went five, six feet by on my first few holes and I was quite surprised with how good they were early. I came off playing pretty late yesterday and the greens got a little bumpy and slow. So the adjustment was -- I had to make that adjustment right away. I think in that respect, maybe the greens played in my favor because how early I went out, but overall, I do think the scoring's going to be pretty good.

Q. How do you feel about your game with the return to golf? Like is this as comfortable as you've felt since we returned to action here?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, I felt like I've had a solid go. I haven't had a -- I was close to going really low today, which was nice. I haven't had like a really breakout round, I feel, that gets me like, all right, we're back. But I think I'm really close to putting together some great golf again and that's exciting for me.

I think the three months off definitely there's a little bit of rust there, just for me. I don't know whether it's mentally. I worked on my physical body throughout quarantine, which is great physically, but the emotion and mental part I think has taken a little hit from me. I'm just working on that and I think this round helps.

Yesterday it was just great for me to make the cut. I was just happy to tee it up this morning, to have a tee time. I had to birdie three out of my last four holes yesterday just to tee it up today, so definitely some momentum. I had a nice little fist pump there just to get in the cut line and here I am with a good score on Saturday. Things can change pretty fast and I definitely experienced that in my last 24 holes playing.

Q. What do you mean, that you had a little bit of a -- it's been a little bit hard emotionally? What do you mean by that? Has it been hard to get back into game mode?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, for me it has been, I don't know why. Just competing and being competitive. I think, you know, after the three months off, I think I definitely just took a hit, like a little hit emotionally just getting myself hyped up.

I think a little bit of the energy out there with no fans, that usually gets my adrenaline going a little bit more. Obviously I'm a very laid back guy, you guys probably know me by now, and pretty chill when I play golf and sometimes need a little bit of that energy. So I guess I am maybe missing the fans a little bit out here and getting just some of that energy up while I play. Hopefully soon we can get them back out here.