

TONY FINAU (-9)

Q. (In progress) bogeying your last hole because it was just a remarkable display of chipping and putting out of you.

TONY FINAU: Yeah, it was. I got up and down when I needed to. The first couple days have been that way. I don't know if I had my best stuff off the tee, but anytime I've been in trouble, I've been able to get up and down with a great chip or a par save with the putter. Happy with the start and just got to continue scoring it.

Q. You know, you one putt-six straight holes starting at the 18th, just remarkable, and they weren't all tap-ins, either. The putt you made on 18 was maybe 15 feet. A couple long putts in there, that has to give you such tremendous confidence in your chipping and putting heading into the weekend, doesn't it?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, no question about it. It's always nice to see the ball go in, especially from distance. I didn't know that, that I had six one-putts in a row. That's always a good stat. I know the putter felt good in my hand and anytime it missed, it hit the hole, so that's usually a good sign. I'll definitely take that confidence going into the weekend.

Q. Of course the flip side of that, you hit three greens on the inward nine. You're such a good ball-striker. Do you have a range session scheduled and what will you work on?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, definitely. I have to hit more fairways more so than anything else. Hitting out of this rough is a tall task. It's hard to judge how it's going to come out. First of all, it's a 50/50 shot if you get a decent lie, and even if you do, sometimes they come out spinny, sometimes they come out hot. It's more so off the tee, I've got to take care of it off the tee and hit the fairways and I think if I do that, my numbers will start to go up.

Q. It's been a few years since you won. How's your patience been during this span?

TONY FINAU: Well, I think we've all learned a lot of patience this year, me included, with COVID and everything. You know, I learned this game doesn't owe you anything, you've got to earn everything you have, earn all your wins. It's been a long time coming I feel like for No. 2. Hopefully it happens here in a couple days.

Q. Tony, a couple solid days. How would you compare the two rounds of 67 and then a 66?

TONY FINAU: I thought they were really similar, just a lot of up-and-downs when I needed

to to save myself from making a bogey and a lot of (inaudible) to my short game. I was able to get up and down anytime I missed the green and I think that was really important these first couple days. I was able to score on the holes where I was hitting it in the fairway, so I'm happy with the way that I scored it. Not so happy with the way I hit it off the tee, I've got to hit it a little better, but when you're scoring it well, it's always a good feeling.

Q. Historically, as we look at the past champions here, we see a lot of short hitters, yet you've had success here. Why has that been the case?

TONY FINAU: I think anytime you have length, you have a little bit of an advantage on any golf course, but on this golf course you don't have to have length, it's not a long golf course, but you have to hit it in the fairway. I just seem to have the right combo for this golf course this week and hopefully that continues, 36 to go.

Q. You said off the tee was the one area that you need to address. What changes will you try and make?

TONY FINAU: Just try and find something that putts the ball in the fairway. Again, you don't have to hit it far on this golf course. If you hit it in play and put it in the fairway, you're probably going to have a lot of looks. I haven't hit as many greens as I normally do and that's mostly because I'm not hitting enough fairways, so hopefully find something off the tee to put it in play more often and in the short stuff.

Q. Only one bogey. How do you feel?

TONY FINAU: I feel good. I scored the golf ball well. A bit of a bummer to finish with a bogey. No matter how you play, you usually want to finish better than that, but happy with the way I scored it the first couple days.

Q. Are you feeling confident to the leader with 36 holes?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, I do feel confident. My game's in a good place. I had a couple nice off weeks, did some work with my coach and I'm looking forward to how we play this final 36.

Q. What was the shot of the day for you?

TONY FINAU: Oh, shot of the day? Probably the par save on 18. With that putt going in, I think I was able to one-putt a lot of the holes after that, but it kind of opened up the hole for me on a hole where I was in the middle of the fairway and missed the green. I think just that par save on 18.

Q. Even though the rain in the morning, you play a solid first nine holes. What was the key to play in the rain?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, you know, I think just getting up and down, being able to judge some

of those chip shots and make some putts when I needed to. That's been kind of the story for me the first couple days. I was making enough birdies, but on the holes that it's 50/50 if I'm going to get up and down, I've been able to get up and down and that's important.

Q. When you come to the Caribbean and in the rain, does it feel a little weird to know that you went to see the blue sea and -- does it change the mindset?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, I just enjoy playing out here. It's a wonderful place, I enjoy Mayakoba, the people are great. Even when it rains here the climate is still warm, so I like that. Most of the time I'm coming from Utah where it's snowing and really, really cold, so I don't mind playing when it's raining here because the rain is warm.

Q. This is your third time playing here, right, so you know now a little bit more knowledge of the course. Do you have an advantage in that way?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, I think I know enough about the golf course but when it's playing this soft, I don't think there's too many tricks; you kind of point and shoot. Out here the ball doesn't really roll from the fairway and then when you're hitting into the greens it doesn't roll either. I don't know how much course knowledge really comes into play, but it's nice to have some good rounds under my belt and confidence on this golf course.

Q. How do you feel being in position for the weekend?

TONY FINAU: I feel good, confident. My body feels good, my game feels good. Anytime I'm putting it nicely, I think that's always a great feeling. You have to putt it well to win and I know that and I've definitely had my fair share of puts go in so far.

Q. Being patient is the key to low scores?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, I think so. I think you have to be patient. Anytime you win I think you've got to be patient, but looks like guys are going to start scoring, so I still have 36 holes to play and I've got to play well.