ROUND 3 INTERVIEW
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JOHN MUTCH
Senior Tournament Director

Q. John, when you went into the scoring truck to show him the video, what were you looking for, what were you trying to get out of that?

JOHN MUTCH: I wanted to know if he saw the ball bounce and neither he nor his fellow competitors saw the ball bounce. It's pretty clear watching the video that he got to within 10 yards of the ball and asked the volunteer who was standing right there "did it bounce" and the volunteer said it did not bounce. So it was reasonable for him to conclude that that was his ball, it did not bounce and he was then entitled to see if it was embedded.

Q. Was there any concern that he might have cleaned his golf ball after he picked it up?

JOHN MUTCH: No, I didn't see that. And once it was determined to be embedded, he would be allowed to clean it. And he also did mark it. He also let his fellow competitors know he was going to do that, so he operated the way the rules entitled him to operate.

Q. Would it be fair to say this happens almost every day on Tour in very similar situations?

JOHN MUTCH: Under soft conditions we do get a lot of rulings for embedded ball and we don't always get called in on every one of them. It's a fairly common ruling, yes.

Q. If he had not called a rules official in, that still would have been fine, correct?

JOHN MUTCH: Yeah, he operated the way the rules permit him to operate. It's similar to virtual certainty, under embedded ball it's called "reasonable to conclude," but if you hit the ball into a penalty area and you're playing with a couple of your buddies and you're virtually certain that's where the ball went and you operate under the penalty area rule and then later somebody in a group two groups behind you says, "Hey, I found your ball in the left rough," well, you're not under any penalty because you were virtually certain the ball's in the penalty area and you proceeded according to the rules. So it's similar in this regard. There was nothing under the rules that he did improperly.