

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW
May 6, 2021

GARY WOODLAND (-4)



Q. Gary, how would you characterize the round?

GARY WOODLAND: It's as much fun as I've had on a golf course for a long time. I didn't drive it great, but iron play's been as good as it's been in a year and everything felt pretty good. So I'm in a good spot and just happy to be here and happy to be playing well again.

Q. How's the body feeling?

GARY WOODLAND: Yeah, I'm good. I just haven't been playing well. I've had a couple good rounds here and there, but it's just been bad. Made a decision last weekend, pretty much rock bottom there playing as bad as I did last week, went back and worked with Butch over the phone on Saturday, saw Pete Cowen on Sunday and really just went back to what I was doing three, four years ago. So it was a big change the last couple days, but I've seen shots the last couple days practicing that I haven't seen in a long time, and today was as good as I've played with the iron game in a year. It's exciting and I'm looking forward to the rest of the week.

Q. What were the biggest changes going back to three or four years ago?

GARY WOODLAND: Just understanding what I'm doing. I think I've just kind of been lost really for a year just trying to get healthy, trying to swing around the hip, trying to just get the golf ball in play. Now I'm actually trying to hit golf shots. Understanding what I'm doing's a big deal. We spent a lot of time over the weekend trying to figure out what I was doing, why I'm different than I was three, four years ago, so that's exciting. The short game's better than it's been, it's just a matter of getting the golf ball in play. I'm starting to do that right now and I'm excited about this weekend and going forward.

Q. Is the tough part about playing through an injury is sometimes you practice your way around the injury?

GARY WOODLAND: Oh, there's no doubt. It was off, it was really off. I saw some stuff on video this week, my swing now compared to what it was three, four years ago, and I can see why I've been playing bad for a year. It's nice to start to see some lines and seeing some shots come out like I'm hoping and like I'm anticipating. Like I said, today was a good day.

Q. How much do you build off today? Not just the play, but how you feel.

GARY WOODLAND: A lot. It's not perfect. Today wasn't as -- I didn't drive it as great as I'd like to, but like I said, when I control the golf ball with the iron play, I can hang in there and

be pretty good. The driver's going to come around. I know what I'm doing now, it's just a matter of doing it under the gun. I'm excited about it and I'm looking forward to not only this week, but the rest of the year.