

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW
May 7, 2021

PHIL MICKELSON (-3)



Q. Phil, what was the biggest difference today from yesterday?

PHIL MICKELSON: I don't know. I hit a lot of good shots on the front nine, I didn't make any putts and turned in even. Then the back nine I made -- I just -- I just wasn't sharp. I think kind of an example of what I've been talking about is like on 17 we're standing over the ball and I'm changing my mind and I'm changing the shot, moving the clubhead a little bit and it just -- instead of backing away and kind of refocusing, I just kind of hit it and I'm not really kind of aware of what I'm doing. So I've got to fix that and work on it.

But I'm excited to be in contention heading into the weekend, and I know I'm playing well. So that will be a big thing for me is just to be present on each shot because I threw two shots away on 15 and two on 17 and that ultimately, you know, things I've been doing and I just can't keep doing that. And I'm optimistic for the weekend, though.

Q. Which was the shot on 15 that you didn't like?

PHIL MICKELSON: It was kind of just a few moments. Like I hit a great drive and I kind of went blank on the 2-wood because I couldn't quite get it there and I wasn't sure what I was doing and I just kind of hit without realizing I was hitting and a purpose and a swing purpose. It's just little things like that that I've been struggling with. Then I hooked it to the right and compounded it with a few bad wedges. I love the golf course, I'm playing well, and if I can stay focused this weekend, I'm going to have a good weekend.

Q. Where was your iron play yesterday, Phil? How did that stack up to how you played last year? Seemed like there was an awful lot of four-, five-footers.

PHIL MICKELSON: Yeah, I made a lot of good four-, five-footers. I haven't really made any long putts for birdie this week, but I feel good with the putter. I made just about everything inside six or eight feet.

Q. Fourteen, was that another moment where you weren't sure, or just a bad shot?

PHIL MICKELSON: Yeah, a little bit. I stepped in there, I was going to hit a draw, standing over it, I'm going to hit a fade and I just made an awful swing, lunged forward on it. It just, you know, just wasn't a sharp back nine.

Q. You mentioned this yesterday, trying to do certain things to improve this. Can you give us an example of how you're trying to (inaudible.)

PHIL MICKELSON: There's things from meditation to, you know, things you eat. There's just a lot of exercises, getting your eyes moving to kind of get your brain going. There's a lot of little things that I'm doing out there to try to stay focused. But it's getting better. I'm optimistic for the weekend.

Q. Down the road, have you given any thought to Senior PGA at Kiawah?

PHIL MICKELSON: When is it, the week after?

Q. Yeah.

PHIL MICKELSON: I haven't, no.