

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW
May 7, 2021

GARY WOODLAND (-6)



Q. Curious, good turnaround from last week. Did something improve health-wise?

GARY WOODLAND: No. Last week was pretty much rock bottom for me. Golf course that I've had success on, won on and went out and played absolutely miserable, missed the cut. Made a change, went back, talked to Butch on Saturday, worked with him over the phone. And then Pete Cowen was in town working with Rory, so Pete came down and we worked in person on Sunday. Went back to really set down and seeing what I've been doing the last year compared to what I was doing three, four years ago when I was hitting it well. Saw the difference visually and then we kind of tried to get back to that.

My body's great. It's allowing me to do that, which is nice. I've seen some shots this week that I just haven't seen in a long time. The golf swing feels so much better. Confidence has gone way up, which I did not have really in the last year. Even when I had good rounds, I haven't been confident. I can lie to myself and tell myself I was excited to be there, but I haven't been excited to play, to be honest with you, for the last year. It's nice. Last weekend was a big deal for me. Came here this week, I feel great all week. The golf course is amazing this week, I love this place. So it's exciting right now and I'm excited for the future as well.

Q. Did any of the previous work you had done lead to anything hip related?

GARY WOODLAND: The swing that I've been doing the last year is because of the hip. When the hip started acting up, I had to make changes just to play, which is obviously, looking hindsight, I wish I wouldn't have done that but I wanted to play. That's all I know how to do is play golf.

So I worked around the hip and I got into some bad, bad habits. My misses have been absolutely horrendous, they've been off the map. So even when I have good rounds, I hit a ball out of play and a big number adds up to not a good score. So Pete showed me that, Butch showed me that, so it was nice.

Pete's in town next week, which is great. Butch is in town next week, which is even better for me to sit down and work with those two guys, kind of get back to where I was swinging a golf club because short game, the putter, everything else has been all right, I've just hit it so bad. For me to be successful out here I've got to rely on my ball-striking and I haven't done that in over a year.

Q. How close were you to having surgery?

GARY WOODLAND: It was getting to a point where, and I'm to a point now where my golf swing, my body's not in pain. So if I can't swing like I did three, four years ago then I need to go get it fixed. If I was going to continue to play the way I was last week, then it was probably time to shut it down this week. But I've seen the difference why I was swinging the way I was. I've seen that I can go out this week -- you know, it's only been five days I think since I've been doing this, but I'm in no pain and I'm able to hit the golf ball the way I want to, and if I can continue to do that, I'll be fine.

Q. We're only two years into this, not including last year, but for all these years after the Masters you almost had a chance to catch your breath before the next one, the U.S. Open. Does it almost feel like it's -- the next major's right on top of us?

GARY WOODLAND: It is, too. They're some big golf courses, too. Obviously this week's a big boy, major golf course. Kiawah's coming up, the U.S. Open is around the corner and St. George's is right after that, so there's no break. And that's -- if you're playing great, if you're playing well and you're confident, that's a good thing to keep rolling. Where I've been, I haven't been excited to get out to a golf course in a long time so it's been different this week. I'm excited to be here and excited to play coming up.