ROUND 3 INTERVIEWMay 8, 2021

GARY WOODLAND (-7)



Q. Are you proud the way you battled through that round a little bit? I know you said (inaudible) didn't go well, but just battling through?

GARY WOODLAND: Yeah, it was tough. The golf course, the greens were firming up a little bit and picking up speed, especially with the wind. So for me, like I said, the ball-striking's been coming this week, I just haven't drove it well, and today I drove it very well. I hit a couple bad shots, but all in all I controlled the golf ball the way I wanted to and I'm excited about that. It sets up well for me tomorrow. I felt confident today and that's a good thing. It's been a while for that. It feels great to be back in this position, feel some nerves, but all in all I was happy with the way I played.

Q. How much does the driver really set up your confidence in your game?

GARY WOODLAND: It's huge because I've relied on my ball-striking for so long outside of this past year. But the driver, I know when I play well, I'm driving it well, and today's as good as I've driven the golf ball in a long time, especially with the driver. I was hitting it in the middle of the face and hitting it long, especially with some of those crosswinds. Some of those tee shots don't set up particularly well. For me to hit drives like that, especially coming down the stretch, bodes well for tomorrow.

Q. Do you feel like this course at any point in a round can just come up and bite you real quick?

GARY WOODLAND: The golf course is phenomenal. It sets up. If you drive it in the fairway, you can attack. I've got three par 5s that I can get home to, which is nice. So the key for me is driving it in the fairway. I can cover that bunker on 16, shorten that hole a lot. As long as I drive it in the fairway, it sets up pretty well.

Q. Do you feel like there's like no lead is safe out here because of the trouble that can lurk?

GARY WOODLAND: Yeah, the golf course is tough, no doubt. It's a major championship golf course and it's in absolutely the best shape I've seen it, so that bodes well. The fans will be hooting and hollering tomorrow, which will be nice. It sets up well. So hopefully I can come out, be aggressive tomorrow and have a little fun.

Q. It's not the year you wanted to have obviously, the swing (inaudible) and the body issues, but what are you going to draw on tomorrow being in this position again to help bring home a trophy?

GARY WOODLAND: Yeah, I think the key, the U.S. Open wasn't too far in the past, so I'll rely on that a lot. But the big deal for me is to trust what I'm doing, enjoy, take a step back, take a second every once in a while, enjoy it and trust it because it's there, it's there for the taking.