

PHIL MICKELSON (-3)

Q. Well, a strong finish, round one for Phil Mickelson, going 3 under his last four. Phil, what did you find after the rain delay?

PHIL MICKELSON: I don't know. I hit some good shots, but I just, I played really well today, I didn't putt very well, and those three birdies were all inside four, five feet. I hit a little bit closer than I did earlier. I thought I played pretty well today. I didn't score very well, I struggled on the greens. Towards the end there, though, it was nice to finish the round the way I did because the scores are pretty low.

Q. I saw you on the range on Tuesday working on your game. From that work, did you see anything tangible that carried over to the first round?

PHIL MICKELSON: I thought the rhythm, I thought the ball-striking from fade to draws was really good, and I just struggled getting any momentum because I didn't really putt that well. But the greens are like -- the greens are in great shape, they're beautiful. You can make a lot of putts. I just need to get a little hot with the putter here in the next few days, but I'm playing well.

Q. Inside 90 days until the Ryder Cup, you had the win at the PGA Championship. What do you feel that you need to do with your remaining starts to become a very attractive captain's pick for Steve Stricker?

PHIL MICKELSON: I need to get in contention. I think that I haven't been as -- I haven't been consistently at the top of the leaderboard and I need to do that, and if I do that, then it will be much more appealing.

Q. If you can just assess your round today.

PHIL MICKELSON: I thought I played really well. I hit a lot of fairways, hit the -- for me. I hit the first nine fairways in a row. When you hit that many, you start counting them, for me at least. I thought I drove the ball well and I hit some good iron shots, but I didn't putt very well and so my score didn't reflect that. I birdied three of the last four to shoot a round that didn't shoot me out of it, but it was a round that I could have gotten up on top of the leaderboard, and I'll have to get one of those rounds hopefully tomorrow.

I thought the grounds crew did an amazing job. With all the rain that they've had leading up to the tournament and then today, to have the course in such great shape was really impressive.

Q. Nice round, Phil. It's been a while since you've been in Michigan. What's been the reception like from fans around here?

PHIL MICKELSON: People have been terrific. They've been very nice and appreciative, and for them to stick around after the weather delay and to support us like that was really cool.

Q. You took advantage of the rain delay to get onto Twitter. So we haven't talked to you since that story came out and the thing that caught my attention is you said in one of your tweets during the rain delay that it's because of that story or how you feel (indiscernible) in that story that you won't be back. Are you saying you're not going to return to the tournament next year?

PHIL MICKELSON: So it was a lot for me to play here because I had won the PGA and then I prepared for the U.S. Open, put a lot of time and effort into the U.S. Open. I played last week at Hartford and I'm going to be heading over to the British soon. So to play here was -- I wouldn't normally do it. I usually take a couple weeks off after the U.S. Open.

But I really liked what Rocket Mortgage has really tried to do with this community and get involved and I wanted to -- I felt like as the PGA champion, I would be able to bring some value and maybe help the tournament out.

I thought that -- I feel that Rob snell made an article this week that was very opportunistic and selfish and irresponsible. I just -- you know, I was looking at some ways that my foundation might be able to get involved. When you have a divisive voice like that, you can't bring people together, it's very hard to bring people together, and that needs to change because the people here are great, but when that's your voice, it's hard to -- it's hard for me or somebody to come in and bring other people and bring other entities involved to help out because you're constantly being torn down as opposed to brought together and built up.

Q. Have you made the decision to not return next year for sure?

PHIL MICKELSON: It was so much effort for me to be here and to have that type of unnecessary attack. Not like I care, it happened 20-something years ago, it's just the lack of appreciation. Yeah, I don't see that happening. I don't see me coming back. Not that I don't love the people here and they haven't been great, but not with that type of -- that type of thing happening.

Q. Phil, you mentioned the British Open. Have you been made aware of some of the restrictions that you guys are going to have to go through once you're over there?

PHIL MICKELSON: I have been, yes.

Q. What are your thoughts about it, because it's going to be tough.

PHIL MICKELSON: The British Open, I'm going to do whatever it takes to be able to compete and try to win another major championship.

Q. What will your team look like? Are you going to keep it to four people?

PHIL MICKELSON: Yes.

Q. Do you know who those will be?

PHIL MICKELSON: I'll have Andrew Getson, my swing instructor. I'll have a friend of mine, Glenn Cohen, and I'll have my brother, Tim. I don't think he counts, but he's going to be my fourth. Look, it's one week. It's a major championship and let's just do what it takes to be able to compete.