

**PHIL MICKELSON (-3)**

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**Q. Phil, just talk about your round today.**

**PHIL MICKELSON:** I made it to the weekend, I think. I think it's going to do that. I was struggling a little bit getting it close, but I fought hard, made a birdie on 17. I'm looking forward to hopefully coming out tomorrow morning and getting it going. I've been driving the ball well. I'm in the fairway, the short grass, which is weird. Then I just haven't done much from there.

So I'll hopefully improve on that tomorrow because I've been hitting the ball well, but I just haven't quite got it going yet. Tomorrow should provide a good opportunity in the morning.

**Q. What did the wind do for the conditions? Seemed like it kind of came and went. Tough to predict?**

**PHIL MICKELSON:** Yeah, the wind made it challenging to get the ball close, I felt. I struggled with that. But the course is in great shape and because the greens were soft, if you hit a good shot, like you could have a good chance to make birdie, but I struggled kind of gauging the wind.

**Q. Anything happen with tournament officials or this crowd to change your plans for next year?**

**PHIL MICKELSON:** You know, the people were awesome, they were so nice. So I would say -- I would say this: I don't want to be divisive. I didn't like the way that felt with the reporter. The people here were so nice that I'll make a deal with them. There's a guy named Mike Sullivan that's trying to raise 50,000 signatures. If all -- if he gets 50,000 and all of those 50,000 agree to do one random act of kindness for another member of the community, I'm in.

I just think that this tournament has sponsors, from Rocket Mortgage to a lot of the local sponsors to a lot of the people in the community, that are trying to come together and do something good for the community. If the members of the community will come together, I would love to be back, but what I won't tolerate is that kind of divisive attitude from that particular reporter. It's just not helpful to anybody in any way.

**Q. Mike is a friend and I think you just made his year. Golf fans are smart, you're smart of how you interacted with them today. The interactions that you had out there today you didn't shy away from. What does it mean to you just to have such a loud following and such a boisterous following around you?**

**PHIL MICKELSON:** I think that it shows what an incredible community this is the way people come together to support, whether it's me or this tournament or the other players or hopefully the members of the community, too. That's what this is about, that's what we're trying to do here using sport as the engine.

So I was very impressed and appreciative of the way everybody was today. I hope that this tournament continues to bring that type of community involvement and bring them together, and if that happens, like I'd love to be a part of it because I thought it was really cool.

**Q. You are a very busy man, next week is busy obviously and then leading up to the British. How important was it for you to make this cut and what does it mean to you to be here this weekend?**

**PHIL MICKELSON:** I am tired of trying to fight to make cuts. I want to get in contention because that's what's so much fun, like it was at the PGA, just being in contention and having a chance. So I've got to play a little bit better, but it is important to me that I get two more competitive rounds.

And you never know what could happen. This is a golf course that you could light up if you play well, you get a few putts going, it's out there. Hopefully I can make a hot run tomorrow because I would love nothing more than to have a chance on Sunday.

**Q. Do you think it gives you an advantage that you're going to be here still playing and Bryson is not for Monday?**

**PHIL MICKELSON:** Yes, and he doesn't have an 8-iron, so that helps, too.

**Q. So because you and Rickie had to play by yourselves, how did that affect kind of the timing for today knowing --**

**PHIL MICKELSON:** We were able to play at what we thought was a slow pace or relaxed pace, but we still had to wait. That's no big deal.

I'm certainly concerned because although I've made every effort to not be around people, even playing partners even though they were tested because you just don't know. With the British Open, I think it's a concern on whether Hideki-san is able to play the British Open. Hopefully, he can. We're at the point now where if you were to come down with COVID, like you can't go to the U.K. and play. That's why we're all being so careful. I've been vaccinated, but still, people who have been vaccinated still get it. We're doing -- myself, my brother, Andrew Getz and the people we're with are trying to stay as isolated and as careful as we can.

**Q. You've been very careful about being safe as well, but knowing Hideki, who was with you guys on Thursday, does that throw a little more nerves in there for you?**

**PHIL MICKELSON:** It's certainly unsettling to know that I spent the entire day that close, but also as I look back, I know that I kept my distance from everybody and tried to stay six feet and tried -- so I think we're all being as responsible as we can. And I'm very sorry that that happened to him and I hope he's able to play the British, and I also hope that Rickie and his caddie Joey and myself and my brother, that we're okay, too.