

TONY FINAU (-8)

Q. Did you pick up where you left off?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, felt like that a little bit, but it's a whole different week. This game's a funny game because sometimes you play well and the next week you're a little flat, sometimes you play well and you keep it going. It was nice to keep it going after last week and keep it going today.

Q. How did it feel to start off so strong?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, it felt good. The ball-striking was nice today. I guess I hit every green, which I wasn't aware of until after my round. First time in my career, so that was nice. I had a look every single hole for birdie and was able to pop a few in.

Q. Were you aware you were one shot off the course record?

TONY FINAU: I was. My last shot lacked a lot of conviction, I wanted to get that -- at least get it to the hole, give it a shot. A few of my putts were like that out there, just left them right in the heart a little short. Wasn't super happy that I left it short, but overall it was a nice round.

Q. The winners here, 25, 23, 18 under. Got to shoot low like you did today. Do you feel like you could continue this? Were there spots where you thought you could have even gone lower?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, I mean, I hit 18 greens as I mentioned, made eight birdies, so do the math, I missed 10 putts. Obviously 64's a very good round, but this is a golf course where a lot of guys are going to make birdies, so anytime you can get off to a fast start, I think it's much needed on a golf course like this.

Q. Two sort of non-round questions for you. I'm a big Finau Fresh fan. Is your family coming?

TONY FINAU: No, unfortunately they're not, I know. They're not going to be here this week. After Minnesota they went straight home and I came here. I'll be here this week and then connect with the wife and the kids next week back home.

Q. Lastly, we interviewed Calvin Johnson the day of the celebrity challenge and he said one of the things he was looking forward to most was seeing you play. How does that feel? That's a Hall of Famer right there.

TONY FINAU: Yeah, that's unbelievable. I got to meet him for the first time during the 313 Challenge on Wednesday and I told him there's only one jersey in the NFL that I own and it's a Calvin Johnson jersey, so big fan of his. And I was sad when he retired, but I totally understood that decision. I was a huge fan of his, so I'm pretty humbled that he thinks highly of my game and me. The feelings are very mutual and I have a lot of respect for him.

Q. Can we admit partial Lions fan then?

TONY FINAU: Sure, why not? It's the only jersey I have so I guess you could say I'm a Lions fan.

Q. When you hit 18 greens, shoot 64, is that about as stress-free a round as you might ever encounter?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, yeah, I guess you can say that, but I hate -- I hate saying stress-free in this game.

Q. I understand. It's relative.

TONY FINAU: Exactly, relative, right? I hate saying easy. Those are just words I don't like using, but it was nice to have hit as many fairways as I did to kind of open up the green for me today. Yeah, it's cool, I didn't know that fact before today, that I haven't hit all 18 greens, so to be able to do that here today is pretty cool.

Q. Golf and non-golf question. Your approach about 250 yards a few holes ago, can you take us through that, what you shot, how pivotal that was?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, I was in the fairway and I knew I needed to take advantage of this par 5 after letting a few putts slip by and not converting on 4, the other par 5 on the front nine. I hit a really nice 4-iron. I had to get all of it to get it to the hole and hit it right in the middle of the green and was able to two-putt that to kind of keep the momentum up on a solid round. Then it was nice to just get a bonus birdie on 8 after a poor wedge shot, but that's why we call our putter the equalizer.

Q. And you don't see fire and knife dancing in everyone's bio. Can you tell us the quick back story on that and when's the last time you did it?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, so if you watch the Feherty show, past episodes, I did the fire knife dance on his show, which is probably the last time I've done it. I grew up, before I played any sports, I did the fire knife dance. Basically a stick, you light the ends on fire and you spin it around and do some tricks. Pretty cool skill to have and it was actually taught to me by my mom, which makes it even more special for me.

Q. Two guys that have won this previously in your group, (no microphone.)

TONY FINAU: Yeah, I was riding the high off of last week. Every week is different. I've had enough experience out here, I know these guys pretty well. I've known Nate Lashley for a long time and it was actually my first time playing with Cam Davis, I know he's a great player. Both great champions here. I knew I needed to play well and we had a pretty nice grouping today.