

ROUND 4 INTERVIEW
JULY 31, 2022



TONY FINAU (-26)

JACK RYAN: We would like to welcome the 2022 Rocket Mortgage Classic champion, Tony Finau, into the interview room. Tony wins back-to-back weeks on the PGA TOUR winning last week's 3M Open and now here at Detroit Golf Club and moves to No. 7 in the FedExCup standings with one week to play in the FedExCup regular season.

Tony, if we could just get an opening comment from you on the victory and winning back-to-back.

TONY FINAU: Yeah, thanks. Yeah, what a wonderful couple weeks it's been. To capitalize the way I did last week and today, on a Sunday where it was pretty tight there going down the stretch and I was able to pull away with some birdies, you know, I think I said it earlier to Amanda on CBS, I just -- I won the golf tournament last week. For some reason I left, and after bogeying the 18th hole I had kind of a sour taste in my mouth and I think it just gave me extra motivation to put myself there again this week and just prove to myself the kind of champion that I am and making birdies down the stretch when you really need them.

So that's all I tried to do. When I got to 14 tee, my goal was to birdie 14 and 17. If I could do that, I knew I was going to win the golf tournament and I was able to do that. I was just proud of the way I finished. I thought that this week I was able to prove to myself the champion that I feel like I am.

JACK RYAN: At this time two weeks ago you're No. 30 in the FedExCup standings and you're a two-time winner on Tour. Now, as I mentioned, No. 7, a four-time winner on Tour. Have the goals changed as we move towards the FedExCup Playoffs, or what are your goals as we finish up here in this season?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, it's funny you talk about goals. I write down goals before every season. I was able to peek at them overnight. One of my goals would be to be a multiple win on Tour this season. To be able to accomplish that is amazing.

Another goal is to win the FedExCup and I put myself in position to do that. Scotty's going to be extremely hard to catch. Sam Burns, those guys have had unbelievable seasons. I think Cameron Smith is up there. Those guys will be hard to catch, but the way the points work in the FedExCup, you're able to race up that, climb that ladder pretty fast. I at least have given myself a chance to do that.

I think I've been quoted saying it many times before, a week can change your life. I guess when you look at mine, two weeks is now back-to-back weeks has now changed my life and it's a great feeling.



Q. Tony, congratulations. A year ago there was a totally different narrative about the close calls and whatnot and blah, blah, blah. Now you've won three times in 12 months. You've got to feel quite gratified and satisfied with having continued to sort of pound on the door as you did. You kept saying it's going to happen, it's going to happen. Now it's continuing to happen. You've got to feel pretty happy about it.

TONY FINAU: Yeah, I think that's well put, Cameron. You guys have been there for a lot of the tough losses. I put myself in situations to win before, haven't been able to do it, but I'm very optimistic. I've always been that way. I've always had hope and faith that things will turn out if I just keep working hard and putting myself there.

And that's the thing, I challenge myself every week to just push past what I feel like I'm capable of. By that I mean just my emotions. You know, these hurdles that you face during a tournament, try and put yourself in uncomfortable situations and I proved to myself these last couple weeks that I've done that and won some golf tournaments.

But I'm proud of the way that I fought through adversity through my career and now I'm a back-to-back champion. That's what happens. They say a winner is just a loser that just kept on trying, and that's me to a T. How many times do I lose? But one thing I won't do is give up and I'm only here as a winner because I chose not to give up and just keep going.

Q. And then secondly and lastly, the par putt on 9, was that the biggest shot of the day?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, there was no question. That was an easy two-shot swinger, looking like he had a great look for birdie. I was able to get a nice read off of that. And some of those putts haven't gone my way in the past, I feel like, where they're lipping out instead of lipping in. So when that lipped in going on the low side, that gave me some momentum right into the back nine.

I was able to make another one on 10 and then I was in control of the golf tournament, but I thought that was really, really big today. The margin of win is five at the end of 72 holes, but it was not -- it didn't feel like that. It finally felt like that on the 18th green, but it was a lot closer than that before the 18th hole.

Q. Wonder if you can just characterize just how complete this win feels, just how every facet of the game seemed to really be working pretty well?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, no question. Yeah, it's very satisfying. I'm sitting here very -- it just feels very satisfying to capitalize on the two ball-striking weeks that I've had over these last couple weeks.

But I feel like I've been hitting it really nicely for a while and I just haven't quite put myself right there. I did in Canada and had a good chance to win there. I did in Mexico at the new



tournament, Vidanta, and then I've done it these couple weeks. These two weeks I've been able to make the putts when they count.

It is very satisfying to win golf tournaments, but to do something like I've done and win back to back, I think that's pretty special. To be able to do that is really cool.

Q. Tony, I don't think this course really sets up that well for a fader of the ball and maybe a few years ago I don't know how they would have fit your game. Can you speak to the evolution that you've had and the changes to maybe give yourself more opportunities to win on different course setups?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, that's great. I think you used the word perfectly, evolution. My game has evolved dramatically from the start of my career until now. This was a golf course that didn't look very good to me the first time I played it, which is in 2020, and now a couple years later -- and that's the beauty about playing on the PGA Tour, you play a lot of the same courses every year, you get to match up and see where you are as a person and where your game is compared to where it was last year. How does this golf course look to me this year, all those different things. The golf course looked pretty good to me this year and so to me that just told me I'm a lot better than I was just a couple years ago.

But that's what it is, I think we evolve as players and as people, and proud that my game has evolved the way it has. It's pretty cool to know that you put your best foot forward and play some good golf. You can put yourself in a position to win a golf tournament and to do that two weeks in a row is really nice.

Q. You had the time where you went from shortening your swing to then chasing speed a little bit in 2020. I guess now where would you kind of put that at in terms of the comfort level with what you want to actually technically be doing with the swing and kind of owning it?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, I don't think chasing speed is probably the best word for me. For me it's just trying to hit it a little further than I am because I have a lot of speed in the bank.

What I learned from that and my game evolving is I don't really need to change anything. I need to get a little sharper, my short game has to be better, I have to putt the ball better. Those are all things that I've known over these last couple years and I've worked extremely hard on, so now that I'm enjoying the success that I am, it's all due in part to me just looking at myself square in the eyes and knowing I'm not as good as I can be and addressing those parts of my game that need to be elevated for me to be a great player.

JACK RYAN: Tony, you're headed to Utah shortly for tomorrow's Tony Finau Foundation Pro-am on the Korn Ferry Tour. If you could, just talk a little bit about the excitement for that event.

TONY FINAU: Yeah, I'm extremely excited. We have our Tony Finau Foundation Pro-am



tomorrow. We run our tournament alongside the Korn Ferry Tour event, which is the Utah Championship, and it's quite special. We have the opportunity to change lives of the kids that -- I grew up in an area where they were less privileged, less fortunate, so to be able to give back to that community, my community and the state of Utah means everything to me.

But I have amazing support from my sponsors, the people in Utah, a lot of Korn Ferry Tour players that are going to play in my event. I think Sungjae Im has played it, I think even Scottie Scheffler has played my event. So I handpicked these guys from the Korn Ferry Tour to play in my event, which is really cool. It gives my sponsors and all the amateurs that play an opportunity to play with potential superstars on the PGA Tour. I'm looking forward to it and hopefully raise a lot of good money for our charity.

Q. That's the second time you've won a million dollars in the past week. What are you going to do with that money? Have you thought about that at all?

TONY FINAU: I haven't thought about it, but now that you bring it up, five kids will take care of that, no problem. Five kids and my wife, I'm sure they know how to spend it.

Q. Tony, I believe you've wrapped up a spot on the U.S. Presidents Cup team and I'm just wondering, those events are obviously pretty different and pretty fun. Wondering your thoughts on that.

TONY FINAU: Yeah, I make a goal -- every year we're either playing a Ryder Cup or Presidents Cup. As an American player, that's something that's really exciting and it's something of a challenge. To make those teams is really hard, there's so many great players. I think one of the great players, Cameron Young, was chasing me down today. You're going to see these guys win a lot, they're amazing golfers.

So for me, I have that goal every year to make these teams on points. I've been selected in the past. One of my goals is to make the team -- make the Presidents Cup team by points. These last two weeks I think were huge in earning my spot. I think everybody earns their spot to a certain extent, but I truly want to earn my spot by earning enough points to just qualify for the team this year. I've got a couple more tournaments to kind of prove myself.

Q. You're known for a laid-back disposition and a good disposition. How much of a challenge was that for those, in hindsight especially, for those years where you were coming up short and having to keep going home and wondering when it was going -- how did you not let that kind of change your personality or your general mindset?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, that's a great question. I think as I mentioned before, I'm very hopeful, filled with faith to just know that there's a better future if I just keep doing what I'm doing.

I think they say the definition of insanity is keep doing the same thing over and over and over and expecting a different result, but in my case it was just taking -- I knew I was playing well



in those circumstances, it's just what are you learning from this to help you grow. Like I said, I think answering your other question was I just had to look myself in the eyes and say how do you feel down the stretch in this certain situation when you're hitting this shot and this shot and really address the areas that really needed the attention and work on them so then when I put myself in that position again, I can win.

I think that's what you're seeing these last couple weeks from me is that I've been able to put myself in similar situations in the past, but my game is sharper, I'm stronger and I'm just a better player to be able to seal the deal and take control of golf tournaments.

You have to earn all of them out here, that's something that I've learned. Guys are rarely going to fold, but the more you put yourself there, crazy things happen. Last week something crazy happened. I put myself right there. Scott Piercy was leading the golf tournament for pretty much the whole tournament. Next thing I know, I've got a four-shot lead with two holes to play. Things like that happen out here. But you have to earn every win you have and that's definitely something that I've learned being in those situations.

Q. Just curious, was there a time when you did win back-to-back weeks, junior golf or college golf?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, yeah, there was. I played Utah Junior Golf Association back in Utah, I won quite a few tournaments in a row. Mini tour golf, I won some back-to-back events.

But to do it out here on the PGA Tour, that's a whole different animal. It's quite special. I don't know what type of group that entails, I know it's been done a couple times this year, but to add my name to that list is pretty cool.

Q. Given your journey to get to this point, can you imagine any win being more satisfying than winning on this tour?

TONY FINAU: Any win being more satisfying. Wins are so -- they're so special out here because they're so rare. You know, I think I'm going to really be able to soak these up probably when I'm home. It probably hasn't hit me yet really the magnitude of what I've accomplished these last couple weeks, but winning is just special. On the PGA Tour, winning on the PGA TOUR is where the best players in the world are. It doesn't matter what tournament, you have to play well, you have to earn the victory. To have earned these last two is very satisfying.

JACK RYAN: Any other questions for Tony? All right. Well, Tony, when we see you next on the PGA Tour, not only will you be the winner of the last two starts, you'll be the defending champion in the first round of the FedExCup Playoffs. Thank you very much for your time and congratulations.

TONY FINAU: Let's go, thanks.

