

TONY FINAU

MODERATOR: We would like to welcome Tony Finau to the interview room here at the FedExCup St. Jude Championship.

Tony, entering the week as No. 7 in the FedExCup standings and certainly on a bit of a hot streak, wins at the 3M Open and the Rocket Mortgage Classic, maybe some opening remarks on your return to Memphis and how great your game's been?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, thanks. I think 7 is the best spot to be. It's the highest up on the FedExCup list I've been in my career going into the Playoffs, so I think that's a good thing. I'm looking forward to the challenge this week and throughout the Playoffs.

It was a nice week at home. I had my foundation event early in the week, which was nice, on the Korn Ferry Tour. We kind of co-exist with the Korn Ferry Tour and I thought that was quite a special event. Had a nice week at home, so refreshed and ready to make a run at the FedExCup.

MODERATOR: You've had a few rounds under your belt here at TPC Southwind. Just thoughts on the golf course.

TONY FINAU: Yeah, it's a great golf course. Not the grass I prefer, bermuda. Growing up in Utah, we don't deal with bermuda, bermudagrass, but it's a golf course I have had some nice rounds on. I haven't been able to put together four good rounds here, but we're looking to change that this week.

But it's a great golf course. Got to keep the ball in front of, you got to hit the fairway, you're going to get some crazy lies out of the rough, so keeping the ball in the fairway's at a premium and it's something that I've done a great job of over the last couple events and if I continue that, then I'll play well this week.

Q. Tony, there was a lot of video that was of you dancing and one of the videos you said that you dropped your wife's phone in the pool. Did that happen and did the phone survive? What was the reaction from your wife?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, the first part of that, I was surprised, all my family was at the airport. A lot of my family. We actually had a family reunion and it finished on Sunday evening. They had a little watch party and they basically moved the reunion from where it was in Salt Lake to the airport to kind of greet me, so that was really cool. They made signs.

I think as I mentioned in a lot of my post-round interviews, family is everything, and you kind

of saw that with a lot of my family being there and greeting me and kind of celebrating those back-to-back wins, so that was special.

We did a birthday party for my daughter, she just turned 1, our youngest. We had a pool party for her and one of my cousins who we hired to DJ, of course, plays the Dougie song, which I guess I'm kind of known for now.

So I started a Dougie and I decided to flip my wife's phone up in the air. I actually thought it was my phone, so when it landed in the pool, I actually was still Douging and I looked in and I'm like, wait a sec, that's not even my phone, that's my wife's, I better get it out of the pool. So that's why I kind of reacted that way. I kind of snuck away from the pool to make sure I dried it off because I'm going to be in hot water if my wife's phone stops working, but that was kind of it.

Again, it was a nice weekend home. I was able to relax and just be with a lot of family.

Q. You actually saved the phone? Those things don't do well in water.

TONY FINAU: Yeah, the phone was fine. It was in there for a few seconds, but the phone ended up being fine. I think she had a nice case on it, which was the saving grace.

Q. Tony, just a quick followup there, I know you have a background in fire knife dancing as well. Is there anybody on the PGA Tour who is a better dancer than you, or are you No.1, do you think?

TONY FINAU: I don't want to be the self-proclaimed No. 1, I'll leave that to you guys, but I do enjoy dancing. I grew up dancing, entertaining, doing Polynesian dancing. My mom had a luau, a traveling luau, so that's why I had to learn how to do the fire knife dance. I'm not shy to dance and entertain just because I've been doing that since I was young and things.

As far as the No. 1 dancer on Tour, I'll leave that to you guys.

Q. Slightly more serious question, a report came out this morning that there are may be a couple golfers who are bound for LIV eventually but are kind of sticking around for the Playoffs and maybe for the Presidents Cup. I'm just curious how you find that approach compared to the guys who left months ago or something, the ones who are kind of seems like maybe going to collect a paycheck and then go collect another paycheck, if you had any thoughts about that.

TONY FINAU: Yeah, no real thoughts. My focus has always been, you know, being in the position I am, just to win the FedExCup. I'm here this week and have a great opportunity in front of me. As I mentioned before I'm No. 7 coming into this week, I've never been this high up in the FedExCup ranking. So to me I'm excited for the opportunity I have to be here and compete for a FedExCup and that's where all my attention is.

Q. Tony, a couple of quick questions. First of all, you mentioned it a little bit, but when you have this kind of momentum with how well you've played leading into this tournament and also winning this tournament, though it wasn't here last year, is this the best in terms of your momentum that you feel going into this week?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, no question. It's definitely the most momentum I've carried into the Playoffs. Back-to-back wins is nice, but I think, as I mentioned in Detroit, while I was able to play well in Detroit, every week is different, every week is new and there's no difference this week. There's definitely some momentum carried, but I'm treating this week just like any other as if I'm just preparing for any golf tournament. That's how I'll approach the week and just make sure that I'm properly prepared when it's time to tee it up on Thursday.

Q. While you guys are getting ready for this huge event, obviously this LIV story just doesn't go away. Is it disappointing to you where it's gotten to the point that guys that left are now trying to get back in in the most profitable part of your PGA Tour season?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, again, I can't say that I put that much thought into what the other guys are doing. I had quite a busy week, as I mentioned, and a lot of my attention has been focusing on this week and being properly prepared for the FedExCup and to chase after the FedExCup and just being with my family. I haven't had really enough time to reflect on anything else other than those two things.

Q. Tony, do you like being in sort of an underdog position at No. 7? Scottie's had the lead in the FedExCup all year and sometimes the lead has been kind of outrageously large. Do you like sort of being in that chase position? Secondly, did you watch any of the Tom Kim victory on Sunday and is that one of your goals is to go out and see that kid hit a shot?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, I'll answer that second part first. I did watch a little bit of the Tom Kim victory and it was so impressive. This kid's 20 years old, unbelievable player. He just kind of burst out onto the scene. The first I heard of him was at the Scottish Open and he had a chance to win there. Had some nice tournaments until the Wyndham and then he runs away with the victory there. I think it shows a lot of fortitude.

My son and I talked about it. His tournament started with a quadruple bogey and he was able to win the golf tournament by five shots. So really, I'm happy that Tom was able to show my son to not give up. That's something that I've always told my son, but I think he's starting to understand that great things happen if you just keep your head down and keep going, and Tom Kim was able to show that last week. His 28 on that front nine on Sunday, I mean, I can't believe that's the second lowest score in nine-hole history. Has somebody shot 27? Apparently somebody shot 27, which is unbelievable, amazing. And I definitely was able to watch that. Do you mind repeating your first part of your question, Cam?

Q. (No microphone.)

TONY FINAU: Oh, yeah, do I like being in a chase position. Yeah, I like being in the top-10 going into the FedExCup. Again, it's a spot that I've never been in. Honestly, you probably want to be Scottie Scheffler right now. You are controlling the whole FedExCup. If you win, if he wins a FedExCup event or a playoff event, he's going to be in demand, in control of the FedExCup, he's going to have one hand on it kind of relatively speaking.

That would probably be the ideal position, but the way that the staggering score is set up now, I think if you're in the top-5, the top-10, you're going to have a great chance to win the FedExCup.

Q. Tony, I think officially in the record book you are now the defending champion of this event because you won the Northern Trust. Do you consider yourself the defending champion? And I guess how do you feel like you've played this course in the past, whether it was WGC or if you came here before even that?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, it's definitely strange defending on a golf course that I haven't won on. Usually when you defend a tournament it's on the same course, so it's a little different. Technically speaking, I am the defending champion. I won the first playoff event last year, which was at Liberty National, not here, quite a different place.

My track record isn't great here. I think if you look at the numbers, I've had some nice rounds for sure, haven't been able to put together a great tournament here, but with the momentum I have and where my game's at now, I'm looking to change that.

MODERATOR: Any more questions for Tony? Great, Tony, thanks so much. Best of luck this week.

TONY FINAU: Thank you.