

ROUND 3 INTERVIEW
January 27, 2023



TONY FINAU (-8)

Q. We'll just open up with some comments. Bogey-free 8 under for today. What did you like?

TONY FINAU: I liked all of it. It's hard not to like it. First couple days the putter was quite cold and not very comfortable over it, but a couple of adjustments in setup and rolled it a lot better today, and it was evident with the putts that went in from short range for me. I think I -- I've actually hit it really nicely all three days, I just capitalized on putts, par saves and birdie putts that I really needed.

And it helps when you hole out. I hit a nice hole-out on hole No. 1. I turned in 4 under, just a really clean back nine and hit the fairway on 1 and had 136 yards and was just a perfect little pitching wedge, a little flighted draw and hit it perfect and it landed right in the middle of the slope and just spun right in the hole. So that was really exciting. That's when the round kind of got my attention, the juices started to flow a little bit As I was making kind of a run there. So that was fun.

Q. Do you remember ever starting your third round on the back nine and now being this close to the lead? Is it a different -- any kind of feel to it when you go out there like that?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, I think there is a little bit of a different feel. You know, I was one shot outside the cutline going to my last hole yesterday, I knew I had to make birdie. And I said it before, but sometimes making the cut on the number is almost like new life, especially the whole day I was on the outside looking in. That's pretty much how I looked at it. I had to make -- had to play a really nice back nine yesterday just to be playing the weekend, so I kind of felt like new life. I knew on this golf course in my head something around 67, I was still going to have an outside chance to do something special tomorrow. And I ended up shooting a few shots better than that and I find myself right near the top of the leaderboard, so it's kind of a cool spot.

Q. One off the course record. Did you see that being able to happen even this week for anybody with the conditions out there as hard as they are?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, no, I don't know that I would think anyone could tie or break the course record this week given the conditions, but I played really nicely. I definitely had a chance at it. Had an eagle putt on the last from range but gave it a nice run, I made sure I got it to the hole. And, you know, I made a lot of putts, but I hit it so nicely, I didn't make all of them but I definitely had 62, a chance at it to break the course record, which around this place is quite good. So I was happy again just getting myself to today and kind of a clean

slate to try and make a run and I was able to do that today.

Q. Was there a moment, Tony, where you thought maybe this isn't my week and you thought you might miss the cut?

TONY FINAU: You know, there really wasn't just because I felt like I was hitting it really nicely. I've always felt like I'm nine holes away from making a run, making a jump and I never really let it cross my mind, I think, that I wasn't going to make the cut even though I was on the outside looking in.

I didn't really doubt myself. I knew that the golf in front of me were some of the easier holes, the more scorable holes on the North I was able to get at. It definitely got my attention because I couldn't give up any shots coming in yesterday, but I didn't really feel like I doubted I wasn't going to. You know, I definitely wasn't to give up.

I think around this place you just have to keep trucking along. Guys are going to miss two-foot putts, I did it the first two days pretty much it seems like every other hole I was missing a short putt. So these greens are just that way and fortunately for me I was able to make some more today.

Q. Did you see Jon making a run, too?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, yeah, I definitely -- I didn't see a leaderboard or really peek at one until I pretty much made the turn and when I holed out, I looked at the top of the leaderboard and of course Rambo's name was up there. I saw we were both kind of making a run. It will be fun, looks like we might be able to battle it out tomorrow.

Q. Tony, what was -- the last hole yesterday that you needed to birdie, how did you play that hole? Which hole were you on on the North?

TONY FINAU: The last hole is par 5 No. 9 on the North. Hit the best drive I hit all week, I think I hit it 330 or 340 later in the evening, I just smashed it way down there. Hit a 6-iron to 30 feet and was able to just two-putt my way right into the weekend. After the drive it was pretty stress-free. Not totally stress-free, but pretty stress-free.

Again, I think that still just gives you confidence to know that when you really -- I really needed to make something happen, I was able to do it and was able to turn it on today.

Q. You mentioned your putting. What was the adjustment that you needed to make coming into today?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, we're going to hold that close to the chest because we're not done with this tournament yet. Obviously didn't feel as good over it the last couple days and felt better over it today.

Q. Tony, it looked like your wife and kids were doing like a special dance for you. What was that?

TONY FINAU: Well, they all have a happy dance. Every time we're eating good food and we like to dance and anytime something good happens, they like to dance. So they celebrate the small victories with me and I love having them on the road with me.