

## ROCKET MORTGAGE CLASSIC

ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTE  
June 29, 2023



RICKIE FOWLER (-5)

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**Q. Rickie, on a day when it doesn't end as well as it was going, do you go right to the range, do you dwell on it or do you just let it go?**

**RICKIE FOWLER:** No, it is what it is. I mean, to be perfectly honest, I had to go to the bathroom pretty badly, so luckily I just got drug tested so I went straight in. There weren't many bathrooms the last five holes so I was a little shaky coming in, and not to necessarily blame the finish on that, but it didn't help.

Still a solid day, a lot of good stuff, off to a good start and that's really all you hope for on a Thursday to get a tournament going is get out moving in the right direction. And yeah, now going out with the little one, rest up. We've been on a pretty big stretch and looking forward to a couple days off next week before we head overseas.

**Q. How different does your game feel back at this course from last year?**

**RICKIE FOWLER:** I mean, it's quite a bit different, just the confidence and self belief and knowing what I'm capable of and what I've been doing and the consistency and kind of being able to build momentum. That was something that I definitely didn't have the last few years. Yeah, in a lot better spot.

**Q. Did you run into some tricky reads on the green? Seemed like you and Tony were both kind of talking and gesturing at different times, like didn't quite break the way you thought it would?**

**RICKIE FOWLER:** That's just when you get soft poa, greens get bumpy and you get footprints and soft spikes kind of leave craters. Yeah, it's tough. And there were some pins that were on quite a bit of slope so when the greens get a little bumpy and there's that much movement, there's not a whole lot you can do. You just sometimes hit and hope; hopefully it goes in, sometimes it doesn't.

**Q. Rick, what is it about those conversations or those visits with Butch that can kind of help refocus and redirect things for players?**

**RICKIE FOWLER:** I mean, Butch is great at just being a golf coach. It's not all about swing. At the end of the day, you've got to go out there and execute and hit golf shots and play golf. So keeping it fairly simple, kind of one or two things that you focus on swing-wise. That's more in warmup and practice, and have that one or so swing thought that you kind of go with



out there. But it's more about going out, hitting shots and playing the game.

**Q. There's no shortcut to the hard work, right? So a lot of hard work on your resume right now.**

**RICKIE FOWLER:** Yeah, I would say even when I was struggling over the last few years I was putting in a lot of work, but it's just nice to start to see some work pay off because I've put a decent amount of time in over the last definitely 10 months or so.

**Q. Talk about the confidence that you have now that you didn't? Of course being in the final pairing at a U.S. Open, things like that may happen, but I sense it's sort of been progressing throughout the year and throughout the last 18 months. Was there a time things started to turn for you?**

**RICKIE FOWLER:** Well, I mean, after working on some stuff after last season and going to the finish, I think I finished tied for 6th or so in Napa to start the year. That was kind of the first step in the right direction. Then was in the final group in Japan. So having the couple finishes in the fall that I did kind of gave me something to lean on and build off of. That was a start, and then to continue it once we got back going in January.

**Q. You're a big name wherever you go but when it's a Rocket event and maybe even more people rooting for you than normal, I guess what was the buzz like? Can you feel it or do you tune it out when you're between the ropes?**

**RICKIE FOWLER:** It was pretty mellow out there this morning. I don't expect people to get out of bed that early, but it was great to have a following earlier this morning. I know if I was going to watch golf, I don't know if I would make it out for the early time.

Definitely appreciated the fans that came out this morning. Yeah, being back in Detroit, it's been fun to see this tournament continue to grow over the years. Hopefully weather cooperates and we get some good weather over the next few days and we should have a really good turnout tomorrow and through the weekend.

**Q. With the way you're playing, how much are you thinking about the Ryder Cup?**

**RICKIE FOWLER:** I am. I mean, I've kept up with or checked on points here or there, but at the end of the day, I mean, it's not like breaking down points to see, oh, I need to finish this to move to a certain spot. Not having much or many points from last year on there doesn't exactly help me. Just keep doing what I'm doing, keep trying to play well and get some good finishes and we'll see where we end up.

**Q. Do you go hit some putts this afternoon or do you feel good about it?**

**RICKIE FOWLER:** No, I hit a lot of good putts out there. Yeah, some of that was misreads or greens a little bumpy. Yeah, I rarely practice after rounds, so this afternoon and tomorrow



morning will be a bit more just kind of rest. And because we've been on a decent stretch with the three in a row through before the U.S. Open and then three in a row right now, and then we'll be home for a couple days before going over for Scottish and British.

