

ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTES
November 30, 2023



TIGER WOODS (+3)

Q. Tiger, seems like the goal today was kind of to test both your game and your body. How would you assess both?

TIGER WOODS: Yeah, you know, I got off to a decent start. I didn't play the par 5s particularly well all day. I was telling Todd over there I had really a lack of commitment through most of the middle part of my round and finishing. I just didn't quite commit to what I was doing and feeling.

You take it for granted, I guess, when you're playing all the time. OK, the wind, it's coming up, move the ball back, you just kind of lean on it just a little bit, just flight it down a little bit, add a couple yards in. Instead of reacting to it, I was thinking about doing it. Then as I was thinking about it, should I do this or not, by then I'm pulling the trigger. I shouldn't really pull the trigger. Hit a bad shot. I kept doing it time and time again. It was a lack of commitment to what I was doing and feeling. I've got to do a better job of it.

Q. Tiger, was yesterday due to any concerns or were you just trying to be cautious or --

TIGER WOODS: No, that was the plan, that was the plan yesterday.

Q. I'm sorry, was the plan?

TIGER WOODS: Yes.

Q. OK. So, with that, how do you feel now? Did you get through it better than you might have thought?

TIGER WOODS: I'm sore, there's no doubt about that. We've got some work to do tonight. I was saying to Todd, tomorrow get back in the gym and activate and get ready for it. Hopefully hit some better shots.

And now I know mentally what I need to do better. I think that's something that physically I knew I was going to be OK. Mentally, I was really rusty and made a lot of errors in the mind that normally I don't make.

Q. Would it be fair to say you're getting around -- I know it's only been one round or 27 holes, that you're getting around better than you have at any time since you've come back from the accident?



TIGER WOODS: Yeah. As I said earlier this week, I was going to have to have this ankle either replaced or fused at some point. It just wore out and I was dealing with bone on bone for a number of months. I don't have to worry about that anymore.

Q. Where do you feel sore?

TIGER WOODS: Everywhere.

Q. Where is the most?

TIGER WOODS: My leg, my back, my neck. Just from playing, hitting shots and trying to hold off shots. It's just different at game speed, too. Game speed's a lot different than at home speed.

Q. Was there a particular moment where you felt most just good to be back in your element?

TIGER WOODS: I think starting out was fine. When Scottie had that issue up ahead of us there at 6, it was a bit awkward to kind of start again because we took so much time off and we were in a nice rhythm. That's tournament golf and that's something I haven't dealt with in a while. It's been, what, April. Those are things that we take for granted by playing a lot and I haven't done it.

Q. Generally, though, all things considered, are you pleased just to get going again and get around, see where you are?

TIGER WOODS: Yeah, I wanted to compete, I wanted to play. I felt like I was ready to compete and play. I hit it solid most of the day. As I said, I just didn't mentally do the things I normally would do and I need to do.

I still hit it solid, but I hit it crooked. I've always had a knack of hitting the ball in the middle of the face, but I need to do a better job where I need to hit it in my windows.

Q. (No microphone.)

TIGER WOODS: It's both. It takes hours on both ends. It's been like that for years.

So ever since my back went, it would take hours to activate, it would take hours to recover and become -- they become long days to play 18 holes.

Q. Tiger, you had a big smile on the 18th green. What were the emotions of the day? I know there was frustration, but looked like you had a good time as well.

TIGER WOODS: Yeah, being out there with J.T. and Bonesy and Rob, we had a great time all day. We were joking that we're both getting ready for the fifth major in a couple weeks.



We're looking forward to that. And the fact that I'm able to play and compete against him in this arena, not just at home, it was nice to feel that again.

Q. How did Rob do?

TIGER WOODS: What's that?

Q. How did Rob do?

TIGER WOODS: Rob did great. He didn't give me a bad number, I did them all today.

No, we had a great time today. It was fun to have him out there and have him inside the ropes where I think he has a better appreciation for, you know, what we do inside the ropes. Because obviously he's seen me on the range and activate, warm up or practice sessions, but inside the ropes come game time's very different. That's a conversation that we had with Joey pre-round, after the round. He normally had different angles and now we have these conversations like during the round, no, I just didn't really realize from all the years walking the angles that you guys had and that ridge came into play. Little weird things, you know.

Q. What's the biggest swing change you needed to make because of this particular surgery?

TIGER WOODS: It wasn't a major swing change. It just is more of a lack of mobility. My ankle really has no mobility anymore. I can't drive my knee like I used to, and obviously I can't twist like I used to because my back is fused. There's just a lack of things I can't do, but it's not like I have any -- I've made any major swing changes or I've tried to make any changes. I just let me body just tell me what I need to do.