

**ROUND 4 PRESS CONFERENCE**  
**May 12, 2024**

**RORY McILROY (-17)**



**JACK RYAN:** We would like to welcome Rory McIlroy, champion of the 2024 Wells Fargo Championship, into the interview room.

Rory, congratulations on your fourth win at the Wells Fargo Championship and your 26th on the PGA TOUR. If we could just get an opening comment on what this one means to you.

**RORY McILROY:** Yeah, I don't know what's more unbelievable, winning a PGA TOUR event for the fourth time or getting my 26th. Whenever I sort of hit some of these milestones or do these things, I always think back to, for example, like 20-year-old me playing in this tournament for the first time. If I had known back then that this is the way everything was going to pan out, I probably wouldn't have believed you.

Yeah, anytime things like this happen I feel incredibly lucky and grateful that I have the opportunity to do what I do. I was able to play good enough golf today to take advantage of that opportunity.

**JACK RYAN:** Two wins in your last two starts, you moved up to No. 4 on the FedExCup. How much confidence do you have now moving forward and how much have these two wins done for your season?

**RORY McILROY:** Yeah, they've done a lot. I think getting the win at Zurich with Shane was a big confidence builder for both of us. I definitely took a lot from it, especially with how I played at the weekend there. And I think this week was just a continuation of how I felt. I felt like I drove the ball incredibly well at New Orleans, especially over the weekend. I drove the ball great again this week.

Historically, this is a golf course that lets you hit driver a lot and you can really take advantage of length off the tee if you have it. It's one of the big factors why I've been able to do so well here over the years. Combine that with how comfortable I felt with my short game and my putting this week, I'm able to put runs together on this golf course that has enabled me to win here for the fourth time.

**Q. When's the last time your game felt this good? Does it come to mind immediately?**

**RORY McILROY:** There's been times. I think there was a stretch last summer sort of like Memorial, Canada, U.S. Open, Travelers, Scottish Open, Open. Probably right around last summer is when it felt.

But I think this actually feels a little bit better than that. Yeah, it hasn't been too long ago. I



feel like my '22 and '23 seasons were pretty good years and felt pretty comfortable with my game for the most part for those two years. I just went through a bit of a quiet spell there for a couple of months at the start of this year, but I feel like I'm back where I need to be.

**Q. Rory, that quiet spell you just alluded to, what do you think was missing?**

**RORY McILROY:** I don't know. I think part of it was technical, I was missing a lot of shots left. Yeah, I think that was really it. Then missing those shots left, not having full confidence in what I was doing with my swing, and that sort of bleeds into the rest of your game. I've always said whenever I'm driving the ball well and hitting the ball well, I think it sort of -- you know, it goes the other way and it feeds into my short game and my putting and I can get confidence from that. So it just needed like a little spark, and I think getting that spark -- there was signs of life, San Antonio, Augusta, but getting that little spark in New Orleans and getting the win there with Shane definitely gave me a lot of confidence.

**Q. Will you go straight to Louisville or do you go home? How do you plan to approach getting ready?**

**RORY McILROY:** Yeah, I'll probably go home and just sort of reset, then head up to Louisville either tomorrow night or Tuesday morning.

**Q. Rory, congratulations, fourth win out here. How long until you buy a house out here at Quail Hollow?**

**RORY McILROY:** I must say, I do go on Zillow quite a lot and look at some of the properties around here.

No, I'm pretty set in Florida right now.

I love coming back here, I love spending time here. It's a place that I'm very comfortable at with Quail Hollow, the city of Charlotte in general and the people. For whatever reason, I get so much great support here. I said it on the 18th green after I won there that all these people have sort of watched me grow up. I won here for the first time as a 20-year-old and now at 35, so they've sort of seen my progression throughout the years. I've sort of grown up in front of their eyes and I think that's one of the reasons I get a lot of support here, too.

**Q. On a more serious note, you were 59th in driving accuracy but still turned around to be first in strokes gained off the tee, second in scrambling, second in proximity. What do you attribute that to?**

**RORY McILROY:** I would say even the fairways that I missed, I didn't miss them by a lot, I didn't miss them by much. I felt like I drove the ball really, really well this week. And the distances that I can hit it, it's hard to hit those fairways at times, but if you're in the first cut or just off the fairway it's a pretty good drive. And I was able to take advantage of that distance, especially -- I think this course more than maybe any other on Tour I can hit driver pretty



much on every hole, which isn't the case for a lot of other golf courses. So it's nice to have that advantage.

**Q. Returning to Valhalla, there's always kind of look back at the old explosive Rory and this newer, more consistent. Did any part of this feel like that old Rory?**

**RORY McILROY:** Yeah, when you play an eight-hole stretch in 8 under par, it feels a little like that.

No, I mean, I've been sort of banging this drum for the last few years, but I'm a way better player now than I was back then. I haven't had the major record to back that up, but I've had the wins, I've done everything else there is to do in the game since 2014. The only thing I need to do is get another major. You know, a win like this going into the PGA Championship next week is a good way to prep for that.

**Q. You said the driving well frees you up. Was there anything as we get near to Valhalla approach-wise or anything that's maybe helped unlock the 8 under in eight stretch that you played?**

**RORY McILROY:** Yeah, I think so. I would say -- I would say the two best shots I hit today were the three-quarter 8-iron into 9 and the 9-iron into 13, just really good iron shots when I needed to hit them. So that gives me more satisfaction and more confidence than any of the drives I hit out there.

**Q. Rory, the birdie that you made on 9 to draw level with Xander, was that really kind of the moment that you said, OK, I've got nine holes left and I love this place, this is where I can go, and you obviously went a little crazy there with the eagles on the back nine, but is that the kind of jumping off point that you needed to really run away with this?**

**RORY McILROY:** I think it was probably the hole before. So I hit it into that sort of little pine straw area under the tree left of the eighth. Xander hits it up in good position just left of the green. I chip it up there to 10 feet. Xander chips it to eight feet. I make it, he misses, so I cut the deficit to one. I think just getting the honor back on the ninth tee was a big moment, yeah, just mentally. And then to hit the drive and the second shot that I did, yeah, it was a big moment to draw level with him going into the back nine, but I think I was able to do that because of the putt I made on 8, the hole before.

**Q. Rory, the eagle, the second eagle on 15 when you threw it into the crowd, if you could describe the shot and then the aftermath and why you did that?**

**RORY McILROY:** Yeah, so I would say the bunker shot was relatively straightforward. It was one of the best lies I had in a bunker all week, slight upslope, just needed to splash it out. The slope is sort of right to left. I wasn't thinking of holing it, but I was thinking that I could get it within tap-in range and make an easy birdie.



Yeah, then when it dropped in, I don't know why I threw it in there. It's something that I've done over the years, and yeah, it felt good.

**Q. We talked earlier this week and you had pretty good expectations of having success here given your record. You obviously achieved something great today. Going to Valhalla where you've won, how do you manage expectations heading into next week?**

**RORY McILROY:** It's really funny, so going into Valhalla in 2014 I had won my last two starts, and going into this year I've won my last two starts. Just need to try to replicate whatever I did in 2014, just try to do that all over again.

Yeah, I'm feeling really good with my game. I need to stay in my own little world next week and not get too far ahead of myself, but if you can step on to the first tee at Valhalla on Thursday and feel as good about my game as I did today, I think I'll have a good chance.

**Q. Rory, as you know, this was the last tournament with Wells Fargo as the sponsor. What do you think the chances are that Charlotte remains a regular stop on the PGA TOUR? I'm assuming you would like that idea.**

**RORY McILROY:** I think the chances are very high, yeah.

**Q. After the tee shots on 4 and 6 you were walking down 6 and kind of making some swings, didn't seem really happy with things maybe. Was there a key that you unlocked that led to this stretch going from 8 on?**

**RORY McILROY:** Yeah, the first few holes I just didn't have great yardages. I had a good yardage on 1, it was a perfect just gap wedge, but on 4 and on 6 they were like three-quarter shots and they weren't quite -- what we talked about with my swing and trying to sync up the upper and lower body on the way through, I find that a lot easier to do with a full shot or a full swing rather than like a three-quarter. So it was more that, I just didn't have great numbers the first few holes. But then, as I said, that three-quarter 8-iron into 9 was like, that was a huge confidence booster to make a swing like that and make birdie.

**Q. Rory, we started the week with you before the tournament started, you were asked a lot of questions about the player board and everything and that was -- obviously that's been on your mind, it's been on a lot of people's minds. To finish out the week with this win, how are you kind of balancing now I guess the emotions of, hey, I can play some pretty good golf and compartmentalize off-the-course stuff. It seems like there's a lot that could be swirling between your ears right now in all those aspects?**

**RORY McILROY:** Yeah, there is, but at the same time I think getting inside the ropes for that four or five hours or whatever it is a day, it's a nice escape from everything else that's going on in the world of golf.



I don't mind it. I've always been able to compartmentalize pretty well. I seem to for whatever reason play very good golf whenever I have a lot of stuff going on. I don't know if it's -- I need that just to really, when I get on the course really focus on what I'm doing out there, but yeah, it seems to work.

**JACK RYAN:** Any other questions? Rory, congratulations and best of luck this week.

**RORY McILROY:** Thank you.

