

## ROCKET MORTGAGE CLASSIC

### ROUND 1 QUOTES

June 27, 2024

**ROCKET**  
Mortgage Classic

### RICKIE FOWLER (-6)

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**Q.** Rickie, in the middle of your round I think you had nine pars in a row. When you're out there, a lot of people making birdies, what's your mindset? Do you stay patient or what are you thinking when that's going on?

**RICKIE FOWLER:** Luckily, I wasn't counting.

**Q.** I just counted.

**RICKIE FOWLER:** Yeah, it was more with the soft conditions and the poa greens, them being bumpy. Biggest thing, I was just trying to hit as many greens as possible. It was going to be tough to make putts unless you hit it really close. So yeah, that was kind of the big thing. I was just trying to fairways and greens, wear those out, and if we get a couple putts to go in, just kind of bound to happen. It was nice to get a few to go in coming in and finish off the round.

**Q.** How much are you enjoying the 18th hole these days, another birdie?

**RICKIE FOWLER:** Yeah, I definitely made a handful of birdies there, I've made a 2 there. Yeah, see if we can keep the streak going. I can't remember what I did on Saturday, but that's at least three in a row.

**Q.** I don't know if you're familiar with Sauce Gardner, he plays for the Jets. He's been getting into golf and he went on a frenzy of showing some of his golf videos and I wanted to see if you would take a look and give us your thoughts. You can hit play on there. And if you can answer into the microphone behind you.

**RICKIE FOWLER:** I mean, if Sauce is just getting going, we have -- I like the possibilities. There's a lot of good athletic moves and speed in there. A little work, watch out.

**Q.** Any tips that you would give him?

**RICKIE FOWLER:** I mean, seeing that, I think yeah, first keep swinging hard and then a big thing is work on short game and putting. For a lot of people, I feel like high handicappers, I feel like that's kind of the easiest way to start taking strokes off. Then you can worry about the long game later.

**Q.** (No microphone.)



**RICKIE FOWLER:** I'm looking forward to fresh greens in the morning. Putted fine today with the greens being soft and bumpy, they'll roll a little bit better in the morning. Big thing here is don't get out of position necessarily, because you're going to make birdies but the bogeys can happen pretty quickly if you hit it in the trees or miss the green in the wrong spot. I think hitting a lot of greens today was kind of the main goal and continue to do that and see if we can -- like I said, with the fresh greens tomorrow, make some more putts.

**Q. Being the defending champion of an event sometimes comes with some pressure coming into it, but to have the round like you had today, how much confidence does that give you heading into the rest of the weekend?**

**RICKIE FOWLER:** Yeah, it's good. Coming off of last week, finally started to see some putts go in there and putted well. I was looking forward to this week coming back to a place I've played well and had success. Yeah, there's always that little extra pressure partly from being a partner with Rocket and being the defending champion here, putting pressure on yourself as well. All good. Yeah, off to a nice start, so see if we can kind of keep things going tomorrow.

**Q. Rickie, was there anything specific that clicked last week and how close do you think you are to getting back to the form that you showed last year here?**

**RICKIE FOWLER:** I mean, putting was a big one that kind of helps take some stress off the rest of the game. Seeing some putts go in and putting well was nice. I didn't drive it quite well last week. Irons are OK, but starting to see those get better and better. Yeah, I feel like I'm in a good position iron-wise right now, I feel like I can move the ball both ways and hit my numbers and control distance as well, kind of working from the green back.

Tailor

