

ROUND 2 QUICK QUOTES
February 14, 2025



RORY McILROY (-5)

Q. Rory, wonderful day, some birdies coming home to really kind of bring a lot out of this round. What happened with the putter from yesterday to today because you rolled in just a ton today. Yesterday I thought you hit your lines but left a lot in the heart, is that the difference today?

RORY McILROY: Yeah, I think when you get conditions like we had yesterday, it's sort of hard to putt. You're rolling it down there and if the ball goes in, it goes in. If it doesn't -- especially when you get poa greens like this and they start to get soft, you're going to miss some putts. I hit good putts and they're going to miss.

I think you have to be just so accepting on greens like this. Today I did my best to roll the ball on the right line and try to get the right speed and thankfully a few went in.

Q. You used acceptance, patience. You showed a great deal of that the entire week up at Pebble Beach and then when the opportunity hit, you hit the gas pedal. It's kind of felt a little bit like that out here; yesterday patience, today you mentioned it and today you pick your spots. Feeling like the weekend's going to be the same and maybe a few more fairways to take advantage of those par 5s, is that the recipe?

RORY McILROY: Yeah, I need to take advantage of the par 5s better, I haven't played the par 5s that well the first couple of days. So yeah, I need to do that, need to do that better especially when a golf course like this is playing so tough, you need to birdie the easy holes and the chances that it presents. Luckily I made up for that in other areas today. It was nice to get a couple back after the two bogeys on 12 and 14.

Yeah, I don't see this course getting much easier as the week goes on. Yeah, as you said, picking your spots and being conservative to some hole locations and yeah, trying to pick up shots on the birdie chances.

Q. Rory, I know Torrey kind of stands alone on the PGA TOUR, but is it a similar test at all to Pebble as far as you have to get the ball in play?

RORY McILROY: Yeah, I would say the greens are starting to get very similar. That soft poa, really have to control your spin coming into the greens, hitting one or two clubs more than you usually would and just try to take the spin off. So there's a lot of that.

But in terms -- I mean the rough's a lot more penal here so it's a little different. I thought the rough at Pebble was quite benign.

And this is, you have longer shots into greens. I had some good wedges today and hit them close, but there's a lot of holes here where you're having to hit 7-iron, 6-irons into those greens.

Yeah, but it's similar. They're small targets, quite a lot of pitch on them. So yeah, I think for me, I'm getting up on every tee box and trying to hit it as hard as I can. If it goes in the fairway, great. If it doesn't, as I was saying, sometimes when you're hitting a wedge out of the rough and you don't have to worry about the spin, that's a good thing to some of these back pins. Pretty thoughtless off the tee and then a little more thinking going into the greens.

Q. You said a couple times when asked about Scottie that you really liked and noticed how he avoided making a lot of bogeys. How much have you tried to employ that like consciously? Is that something that you thought about in your own game?

RORY McILROY: Yeah, again it's about picking and choosing your spots to be aggressive. Sometimes I think I can get overly aggressive with approach shots and that's something where you just have to realize that sometimes par is good on a hole and you move on, but if you hole a 25- or 30-footer, that's a bonus.

Yeah, it's more maybe just picking some more conservative targets at times. Scottie has proven over the past two or three years that he's definitely the best at that.

Q. Is that sort of a product of you know you can pull off those shots, which is what has made you maybe try them?

RORY McILROY: Yeah, it's a bit of a double edged sword; I have a lot of belief in myself but sometimes that belief can turn into delusion depending on the situation.

Yeah, it is a little bit of that and I feel I can pull off any shot that I want to hit, but over the course of a season, over the course of a tournament, the more conservative strategies definitely pay off.

Q. If you had to give yourself a grade for today's round, what would it be and why?

RORY McILROY: B-plus. I hit a lot of really good shots, I played well for the most part, I scrambled well. I just didn't take advantage of the par 5s, I only made one birdie on 9, hit it in the fairway on 6 and didn't make birdie and then didn't birdie the two par 5s on the back nine.

Look, I made up for it in other places, which was nice, but I know going into the weekend I'm going to have to play the par 5s better.

Q. Favorite club of all time of yours?

RORY McILROY: Favorite club of all time? Wow.

Probably the M2 driver.

Q. Why?

RORY McILROY: Just like I still, I stare at it in my garage sometimes, wish I could still use you sometimes. It's probably illegal at this point.

Q. (No microphone.)

RORY McILROY: No, no.

Q. (No microphone.)

RORY McILROY: Yeah, I don't -- I can see why just trying to gouge it out of the rough. No, hopefully -- if I put it in I wouldn't need to use it because I'm thinking about hitting fairways and not hitting it in the rough, but I'm pretty good at getting steep in my irons and being able to advance it forward. Yeah, there was no need for me.