

ROUND 4 QUICK QUOTES
February 15, 2026



RORY McILROY (-17)

Q. Rory, 8-under round, that's the best that we see on the course so far. Just what did you like about your performance today?

RORY McILROY: No mistakes, no bogeys, which is the big thing today. I mean, what did I make, eight birdies today on top of the 20 --

Q. It's like 26 or something?

RORY McILROY: And 26 and two eagles or something like that. But I made three doubles and a triple. One of the first starts back of the year, trying to get the sloppy stuff out of the way, which I feel like I did. Obviously a really solid round to play going into next week. Unless the weather gets really bad here coming up, it's probably not going to be quite enough, but I played really well today, which is great. Sets me up well for next week.

Q. From our perspective, it seemed like this week 95 percent good golf and those few blips. Would you describe that as rust, mental miscues?

RORY McILROY: A little bit of everything. Probably rust. Some (inaudible) decision making early in the year. Yeah, a little bit of both.

Yeah, that's all I felt like I needed to tidy up because the good stuff in there is really, really good. Struck my irons well, drove it well for the most part. There was a couple of destructive tee shots yesterday, but everything feels in pretty good shape. I wish I could have those four holes back this week. I played 68 really good ones and if I -- yeah, even you turn those three doubles into bogeys and that triple into a bogey, that's five shots and all of a sudden you're looking at having a three-shot lead.

But all in all, some really good stuff this week. Pretty encouraged going into next week for sure.

Q. Where did you see the most improvement from Dubai, the couple events in Dubai?

RORY McILROY: I think iron play, short game, I think those two areas. Maybe the driver as well even though, as I said, I hit a couple of destructive tee shots. I got one going on the wind on 18 yesterday and then the one on 4, but for the most part like I drove the ball better, which is good to see as well.

Q. As the defending champ, does that put you in a little different confidence boost coming in there this week to start the year?



RORY McILROY: Not really. Jeez, you know, there's a lot that can happen in 12 months, and whether you're a defending champion or not, you know, not really. Try to treat every tournament like it's its own and go from there.

Q. Got to feel really good though, a couple of big numbers and you're really sharp, right?

RORY McILROY: Yeah, I am. I'm in a good spot. Yeah, as I say, get rid of those big numbers and I'd be -- I wouldn't be just right there, I would probably be in the lead.

Q. What do you like about Riviera?

RORY McILROY: Everything, yeah. Look, I missed the last year. I think we're all looking forward to getting back there. It's one of the best tracks we play all year.

Q. Is there anything specific you're doing to get ready for Riviera?

RORY McILROY: No. The weather looks pretty nasty the next couple of days so I don't know how much preparation we're going to get in. I would say keep doing the same things. I'm in a pretty good groove with my swing so keep trying to keep on top of that.

