

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW: RICKIE FOWLER
May 6, 2016



Q. Rickie, a really solid performance today. That was a battle on that golf course. How did you think you played?

RICKIE FOWLER: I felt like I played pretty well. It was a battle, that's for sure. Scores were out there but it wasn't easy. You had to manage the golf course well and you were going to be forced to make some 5- to 10-footers to keep the round going, and that's tough on these greens. There's quite a bit of slope and you add the wind as a factor, it becomes a bit dicey.

Q. They lengthened the golf course for you guys on some of these par 4s today, the 3s were a little shorter?

RICKIE FOWLER: Yeah, you know, the 3s were nice, they gave us some opportunities where it wasn't playing as hard. The birdie I made on 6 was very good. It's still a 5-iron. They shortened it for us but still a tough shot into the wind, that's a front pin. There's definitely some holes that played tough out there. Still had a 5-wood into one of the par 4s and that came up short and definitely some long irons as well.

Q. So the leaders on Thursday really didn't pull away from you guys and you made a move with only 3 back?

RICKIE FOWLER: Yeah, I'm in a good spot. I made a good par putt at the last to kind of keep me within reach definitely going into tomorrow and see if we can get a bit closer and I don't know, maybe out front. It just shows you how tough it was playing out there, no one really ran away. I know Andrew played well yesterday putting up 7 and it will be fun. We're in a good spot for the weekend.

Q. You got it done around this golf course today, 68 put yourself in lovely position heading into the weekend. Talk about that, how does it feel?

RICKIE FOWLER: Well, the number 68 is definitely a good score out there today. A couple little mistakes, a little disappointing. Three-putted No. 5 for par, missed a short one for birdie and failed to get up and down on 13. I missed about a five-footer or so, which I felt I hit a good putt, it just didn't break. Other than that, nice to see some birdies. Made a good par at the last, a good par putt there to salvage the round and looking forward to the weekend.

Q. Looking at your highlights, 6 what club here?

RICKIE FOWLER: This is a 5-iron. Back into the wind a little off the right and hit a great shot, kind of held it and it just drifted left. Nice to get the round going.

Q. The wind's been a factor. How tough was it out there today?

RICKIE FOWLER: It was a bit gusty, the wind. It kind of kept shifting back and forth a little bit. It's interesting when you start getting some shots that may be a little down or maybe it's not helping as much. The big thing around this golf course is controlling your distances into the greens because there are so many slopes and the pins are tough to get really in a good position where you have an easy putt for birdie. You end up with a lot of putts that break quite a bit, and the big thing is you're making the putts five to 10 feet and sometimes you've got to have at least a foot of break on them and it's a fine line.

Q. It is a fine line. So at this point 7, the par 5 (inaudible)?

RICKIE FOWLER: I was actually very pleased with getting this ball as close as I did. I had a lot of mud on the front of the golf ball which you couldn't see there and I had 195 to carry the water there and hit 7-iron, which needed to be hit well, needed to get up in the air, downwind. Luckily it was just high enough. But that was one of the times I had to deal with a mud ball and it was nice to at least get it there. Unfortunately, missed it for eagle but got the 4.

Q. And then on to this, 8, a little 3 on the spin?

RICKIE FOWLER: Yeah, I got a good look from Rory who was just behind me. He hit up it up there gimme. It's always nice when you have about three feet for birdie so I was able to knock that one in.

Q. You mentioned Rory. It's fun to watch you guys out there today, we know you're good buddies and you hang out a lot. You enjoy playing with him. What did today feel like out there?

RICKIE FOWLER: It was nice. We both kind of got things going. Rory birdied 5 where I didn't get one to go. We kind of started feeding off each other it felt like a little bit, making birdies and kind of getting the round going. It was fun. Unfortunately, he made bogey at the last there but we had a good time. Look forward to both of us playing well tomorrow and we'll see if we can both be in the mix on Sunday.

Q. What led to you score so well today? Were conditions a little better, just playing a little better than yesterday?

RICKIE FOWLER: Swing was a bit better today but conditions are still tough out there. It's a fine line, it's definitely scoreable. You can make birdies but you can also go the other way pretty quickly. Almost went bogey-free around here, which would have been nice today. I failed to get up and down on 13. Hit a good putt from five feet and just kind of didn't break. So other than that it's nice to make some birdies, nice to make a good par putt on the last to kind of keep the round going type of thing and ready for the weekend.

Q. How big is that par on 18? Rory said coming up you told him you hit the best drive that you hit all day, you still had 4-iron in?

RICKIE FOWLER: Yeah, I finally hit one solid on line, good flight into the wind and I told my caddie, I said it's going to feel good not having 4-iron in. He thought to himself, well, we might still have it. We still had 4-iron in. Just shows you the course is playing long in areas. They shortened some of the par 3s today but still tough. Yeah, I mean, still had some long irons in, had a 5-wood into one of the par 4s so you had to kind of manage your game well around the course.

Q. Where was the fairway wood into the par 4, and can you compare this to any other course as far as having long irons into some of them?

RICKIE FOWLER: It was on 4. It was my fault for missing the drive, so I might have been able to get 4-iron in if I hit a good drive there. Still to where the pin was and the section it's a tough shot with a 7-iron and I almost pulled off a really good shot.

As far as the length goes, the longest course I feel I've played is Bethpage during U.S. Open setup, and even Barclays there. There's probably no course other than that that you get more long irons into par 4s or possibly taking head covers off. Yesterday, today with some of the soft conditions and being back into the wind, some of the par 4s were playing pretty stout.

Q. You won here before. Do you like this place?

RICKIE FOWLER: What do you think? No, yeah, I love this place. Just the feeling, the fans, the Charlotte area. I mean, it's got a good vibe to it, it's fun. And then yeah, the bonus of having won here and played well here before. No, I really do like this golf course, it's fun to play. I feel like you can use a lot of your imagination to hit different shots. Putting becomes a pretty big premium with some inside 10 feet, you hit some putts that may be similar to Augusta as far as the amount of break that you're playing or how soft you have to hit them and how perfect you have to hit them as well.

Q. Playing a late tee time today, big galleries, playing with Rory, what was that like today for you?

RICKIE FOWLER: It was fun. Rory and I definitely enjoy the times we get to play together. It was fun today to kind of get each other going a bit and kind of feed off each other. It would have been nice to get a few more for the both of us. Unfortunately, he made bogey at the last, but it's going to be a fun weekend. I'm sure he's going to play well tomorrow. I look forward to doing the same and we'll see if we can both get ourselves in the hunt for Sunday.

Q. After all the stop and go at Zurich, do you feel like this is two straight days without having to stop or anything, do you feel back in rhythm after kind of the week down in New Orleans?

RICKIE FOWLER: Yeah, last week Zurich was definitely interesting with the weather. It was nice we were able to finish the tournament with 54, at least get that done and get over here, but it is nice to actually be in the flow of a golf tournament. Yeah, I look forward to a little break before tomorrow afternoon and we'll go get after it.