

ROUND 3 INTERVIEW: RORY McILROY
May 7, 2016



Q. Standing by with the defending champion here at the Sky cart. Rory, I know you were looking for an awful lot lower than that today, 73. Give us your assessment, your thoughts on day three here at Quail Hollow.

RORY McILROY: Yeah, obviously I didn't get off to the fast start that I was hoping for, 2 over through 4. It was playing tough. I mean, it is playing really tough. So to get back to even par through 7 was good. Then I let a couple of shots slip away there around the middle. I was trying to take a little bit too much on them and I tried to hit it over a tree and just caught the top of it. Had a good chance for birdie on 10 and didn't take that. And three-putted above the hole on 11 so I feel like I threw a few shots away there. But I feel like I came back well to play the last four holes in 2-under par to get into red figures for the tournament. I mean, I'm not sure how the leaders are going to fare coming in, it's really tricky out there. The back nine is playing very tough. If the wind keeps up, I can definitely see something around 6 or 7 under leading at the end of the day. Maybe a little bit too far back, but at least I can go out there tomorrow and try to give it my all and try to post a good one.

Q. What's been the most frustrating thing about your game or the way you feel this week?

RORY McILROY: I don't even think it's this week, I think it's been all year, just (inaudible.) I three-putted the first, I three-putted 11, I didn't take some other opportunities that I give myself. I just haven't been playing as efficient as I could be. I feel like everything is sort of there, it's just a matter of putting it all together, and for the most part this year I haven't been able to do that. There's been spells where it's been good and I've had a couple of chances to win this year, but it's a work in progress. I'm trying to stay patient, as patient as possible, but there's definitely times out on the course where I get quite frustrated.

Q. Well, we're going to finish watching you on two real positives. First of all at 12, a couple of really good putts holed today, this one first up.

RORY McILROY: Yeah, this was nice. Had a great drive down there and that was one of the first putts I hit all day that had really good speed, caught the right edge and it went in. It was nice to see a putt like that go in, especially to get that shot back after three-putting 11.

Q. You talked about character and the way you finished off to get into red figures. I know you're dying to have a look at this one, this was brilliant.

RORY McILROY: Yeah, this was nice, all set up by the tee shot obviously. I don't know if I got the wind wrong or I just hit it too hard, but as soon as it got to this point I knew it was going to be at least close. I knew it wasn't going to be too far away and it just dropped in

there. I think you'll probably see a bit of a wry smile there. No, can't quite see it. It was a bonus to finish like that. Yeah, always nice to hole a putt like that coming in. It was a tough enough day but to play the last four holes at 2 under is decent. I'm sure a few guys coming in this afternoon would take that finish.

Q. I'm sure they would pay a lot for that. 61 tomorrow from you, Rory?

RORY McILROY: That would be nice. With the conditions of the course I'm not sure that's going to be possible but something in the mid 60s would be decent.