



**ROUND 1 INTERVIEW**  
**June 23, 2017**

**Fred Couples (-5)**

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**Q. Great way to start the week. What felt good out there and how did you kind of make the most of the golf course?**

**FRED COUPLES:** Well, mostly the par 5s, and I didn't know there were five of them out there. I'm trying to keep score. But it was a good day. Obviously Steve played very well and he had a chance to shoot much, much lower. I drove the ball well. I hit my irons okay. I ended up having a very good round with an eagle on 16, so it was not bad. For not playing in a while.

But the golf course, we got to play lift, clean and place, which I'm sure anyone who stood here after the round with a good one would say it's much easier to play when you're cleaning your ball on every iron in the fairway. But it was a good day, I enjoyed it. Big crowds and it's a great event.

**Q. Easy to get back into that competitive mode?**

**FRED COUPLES:** Well, I mean, you have to be in any competitive mode when you play. I didn't think I would play great and I certainly didn't think I would play poorly. I felt like it depended on how I putted and I think I putted okay. I made a nice 20-footer on 16 to go 3 to 5 under. But I hit the ball solid. I don't like coming out here just to play, I'm not there yet, so I try and be as competitive as I can. And after seven weeks, maybe the last 10 days I practiced pretty hard by playing and chipping and putting and then I felt pretty good today.

**Q. You're a beloved player on the tour wherever you go, but are you surprised by how much love Steve gets out here?**

**FRED COUPLES:** No, I'm not surprised at all. There's a tournament in Seattle that I play and it's the same thing. Steve Stricker is a Hall of Fame player and he's playing in his hometown and he's got a lot of people rooting for him, which if it didn't, all of us would be shocked. He's fun to play with, too. He played very, very well. I would be shocked if that's not his highest score of the week, 6 under. It looked very easy.

**Q. What about your routine now the rest of the week? Will it stay the same? What changes because of where you're at health-wise?**

**FRED COUPLES:** Yeah, no, I'm getting out of here as soon as we're done and I'll go back and try and relax, and then come out maybe a half our early tomorrow and hit balls instead of an hour. I'll come out and screw around just to make sure I'm loose. I don't practice anymore. I would like to, but there's no changing routines.

**Q. The concert tonight?**

**FRED COUPLES:** I'm going to go for a few songs, yes. Go check out Darius, you bet.