

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW
June 24, 2017



Fred Couples (-9)

Q. So, Freddie, that would qualify as another good day?

FRED COUPLES: Yeah, it was rough. I had a great back nine. I really did hit the ball very well. You know, not going over the whole round, but parring 16 was a little disappointing. It's a fairly easy par 5 today with a pretty tough pin. But other than that, I came back with five birdies.

But it played hard. I hit a bad drive off No. 2 right out of the box and made bogey on another pretty easy hole and then just tried to battle back. I put myself in a good spot. So if I can get hot tomorrow on the front, I think I've shot 9 under on the back nine in two days, whatever that is, even par on the front. So that's not real good on the front, but the back's great.

Q. How much different was it today, no lift, clean and place, a little windier?

FRED COUPLES: It was a lot windier. I mean, there were some holes out there that played brutal and there were some holes that, if you judged the wind right, they were easier second shots.

It seems very calm right here, but when you go on that back nine, it's blowing everywhere. Great crowds. I think Stricker and the community and Jerry Kelly are bringing people out here and it's kind of fun. You know, from where I've played in seven years, this is as good as it gets.

Q. Did I see you make a long par save early on the back nine or somewhere deep in the front nine that kind of kept the round alive, or anything that you had to do to make sure that you didn't lose momentum?

FRED COUPLES: No. I wish I would have had a par saver, but I didn't, no. I did make one birdie on the front, but that was about it. Then I had a couple other good chances at it, but really, I made 6 on No. 2 and then I bogeyed, I guess it's No. 8, the par 3. No good par putts, but a lot of good birdie putts.

Q. In the short history here the fireworks are on the back, there's a series of holes that people can go low on. Do you feel like that's how tomorrow shapes up?

FRED COUPLES: Well, I mean, the front has three par 5s and I particularly have played them okay. I think the par 3s are really, really good here. I don't know. I mean, if you go play and you have five par 5s and five par 3s, you have to play the par 3s really well. They're all 4- and 5-irons and they're all difficult, over water, judging the wind, and I have

played those well for two days. I did make a bogey today, but the par 5s are the ones you want to attack. And I didn't play them very well today considering my score.

Q. There can be a different vibe on this tour, but a Sunday when you're in contention, is it the same vibe that you felt when you were in contention on the regular tour?

FRED COUPLES: You know, I feel the vibe when I'm in contention just by playing. I mean, if I'm in contention tomorrow and paired with Steve Stricker, then I can figure that out.

I'm from Seattle. There's a tournament in Seattle that everyone roots for me.

The vibe is how I'm hitting it really. When you go to Augusta and you play on a Tuesday and there's 50,000 people, that's a good vibe. But for us here, this is a great tournament with a lot of people. I've always said, when you play in front of a lot of people, it makes it more fun. You want to play well, but it makes it more fun. And there's a lot of people out here. It's very, very nice.

Q. Can someone 5 back come back and win tomorrow?

FRED COUPLES: Well, what is Paul? He's probably going to birdie 16, so that puts him at 13, or last I saw he was 12. I don't know what he is.

No, I mean, you're never too far back. Trying to win is really hard and trying to play a course where 67s and 6s are doable, but you've got to play well. I mean, if I play like I did on the front side, it doesn't really matter what they're shooting. If I play well tomorrow on the front, I do like the back so I feel like I have a shot.