

PHIL MICKELSON ( -12)

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**Q. Phil, you were able to overcome a slow start to get right in the mix of things, within a shot with just a few holes to go. How would you break down your final round Sunday?**

**PHIL MICKELSON:** I had a good time today. It was fun to be in the mix, it was fun to have a chance. It was very difficult conditions. I enjoyed that challenge. This course played totally different with the firm greens and the wind and some of the high pin placements today were tough to get to. I enjoy the challenge and I had fun today.

**Q. We showed what you said on the broadcast earlier in your press conference after yesterday's third round about you think you're going to win sooner rather than later. What is it about where your game is at that has you thinking you're trending in that direction?**

**PHIL MICKELSON:** It's just easy to see the ball starting on the right line, iron play's back, distance control, putting. The game has just come back and my focus is much better. I'm staying present and hitting the shots, and so I'll get a few things ironed out. I'm going to go to China and obviously I won that twice and hopefully I'll see if I can get a win there.

**Q. When you birdied 16 to get to 12 under and just a shot off the lead, what was going through your head then down the stretch?**

**PHIL MICKELSON:** I knew I needed to birdie the last three, and unfortunately the tee shot on 17, if I hit the fairway there, that's a birdie pin. I missed it where you couldn't miss it and made bogey. But I birdied 18. So if I make birdie on 17, it looks like I still would have come up a shot shy, but I would have made a good run.

**Q. Phil, it was a day that was going to be a big challenge for you. Did you have fun out there in that wind?**

**PHIL MICKELSON:** I really did enjoy the challenge. We had some tough pins, we had firm greens, very difficult wind to judge and I enjoyed the challenge. When that happens, you don't think and you kind of know that the leaders aren't going to be taking off and running, so you just have to be patient, make some pars and get birdies where you can find them. I made a few mistakes on the front and probably didn't take advantage of some opportunities, but the back nine I played some good golf and made a late move. It was fun.

**Q. On the second hole I saw you get out of your putt six or seven times because of all the leaves that were in your way. That's got to be really disconcerting when you've**

**got such a tough putt like that?**

**PHIL MICKELSON:** Well, and it's blowing so that once you move them, they're going to come back. I don't understand the rule that happened to somebody a couple weeks ago where a moving leaf hit a moving ball and you're supposed to replay it. I don't understand all that. So now I'm wondering if I hit it and it hits a leaf, do I have to replay it, how does that all play out? So I was not familiar with that rule, either, and on that green I keep thinking about it. It was a very awkward situation.

**Q. Speaking of playing out, are you going to play out anymore this year before the end of the calendar year?**

**PHIL MICKELSON:** I'm going to head over to China. Sheshan is a course that I've won at twice. I've done well at that tournament, I enjoy that place quite a bit and I've been playing well. So hopefully I'll keep my game sharp and go over there and try to come out on top there because I feel like I'm pretty close.

**Q. Yesterday you made such a nice move on the front.**

**PHIL MICKELSON:** Well, what was different was not only was the wind challenging, but the pin placements were on high points so the ball kept being repelled away and you couldn't get to probably eight to 10 of those pins so that made it difficult. But I enjoyed that because it meant the leaders weren't going anywhere, they weren't going to be able to run away and make a lot of birdies. And if I could make a few putts, make a few 30, 40-footers, make a bunch of pars, then I was going to put myself in a chance. Unfortunately, the front nine I made a couple of bogeys and turned in 1 over, but the back nine I played some good solid golf and made a late move.

**Q. Are you going home before you go to China or are you going to China?**

**PHIL MICKELSON:** I've got two weeks, two weeks off before China. They go to Malaysia and then Korea. I won't play there but I'll head to China. So I've got two weeks off, I'll go see my daughter at parents' weekend in Providence next weekend and try to keep my game sharp and head over to China.

**Q. Phil, are you that far off on the drives or are you fairly close?**

**PHIL MICKELSON:** This is a very skewed golf course to judge on fairways hit. I hit three beautiful drives on 18, none of them found the fairway. The fairway's 13 yards wide. I paced it. So on a normal Tour course I would have hit 10, 11 fairways today, I drove it fairly well. But out here I think is a way to kind of protect that they move the fairways in so that they're about half what they normally are.

**Q. As you said yesterday, you know you're going to win soon. What is that last little small hump to get over that hill?**

**PHIL MICKELSON:** It's really not a hump, it's just keep playing and I'm going to keep giving myself good chances and it will happen. I get on a course like Sheshan where I'm very comfortable, I know the greens, I know the course well, I think I'll have a good week there.