

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW
February 15, 2018

TONY FINAU (-5)



GENESIS OPEN

Q. Tony, excellent start. Get some comments on your opening round if we can.

TONY FINAU: Yeah, it was. It was a great start. It's a good golf course, and yeah, I got off to a great start. Made some putts early and was able to ride that momentum kind of throughout the whole round. I drove it really nicely, which is what you have to do on this golf course. Hit a lot of fairways, so I was able to give myself some good looks. Happy to make that one on 18, my 18th hole, the ninth hole. I missed a few coming in. I hit a lot of good putts that just didn't go in coming down my last few holes, so it was really nice to see that one go in on the last hole.

Q. You missed the cut here last year. Do you feel different, anything different about this course? Do you feel like you know it better this year?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, I missed the cut last year, but it's a golf course that I like. I don't know, sometimes you can't wrap your finger around the game, you know? But it's definitely a golf course that I like and pleased with the start today.

Q. What did you find the last year that you felt like you didn't do properly to get around here?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, I think I drove it nicely last year. I don't remember exactly how I played last year, but this year so far for 18 holes I've driven it really nicely. You've got to do everything well on this golf course and I was able to do that today. So again, the putt on the last was big to see go in after hitting a lot of good putts on my last few holes and having them not go in.

Q. Is it tricky in the late afternoon?

TONY FINAU: It is. It gets tricky because of the spike marks on the greens. And the speed, you hit some downhill putts and want to give them a go, but you don't like those four- and five-footers coming back so it plays with you a little bit. But it was nice to make some early and then make that one on the last.

Q. Dustin wins here last year and obviously he's got plenty of length so he kind of recognizes a shotmaker's course. Do you kind of like that challenge to a certain degree?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, no question. I feel like I'm definitely a shotmaker, very creative, very instinctive when I play and very visual. So this course allows you to do that. There's no one

way you've got to hit it on this golf course, you can do it a lot of different ways. I don't think it favors a guy who hits a fade or draw, you can do it -- you can kind of do it all on this golf course. It's one of the best that we play. I'm happy to be off to this start, but every time I come here it's just a cool place -- the history, the atmosphere, the people and the golf course -- so it's a nice start for me.

Q. So what was your most creative shot today?

TONY FINAU: Most creative shot?

Q. Yeah, you were talking about creative shots, one that sticks out.

TONY FINAU: I hit a lot of fairways. I didn't have to get too creative out there, but I hit a good one on the second hole, my 11th hole, hit it in the fairway, had 170 to the hole. Hit this nice really low shot into the wind and ran it up there to about 10 feet for birdie. So I really liked that shot. You don't hit a lot of perfect shots throughout the week, but I would probably have to say that one was the one perfect shot I hit today.