

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW
March 30, 2018



RICKIE FOWLER (-10)

Q. Rickie, you told me yesterday it's good to get the blood flow going the week before a major. How's that done for you today?

RICKIE FOWLER: Well, we got off to a nice start. You can see four through the first six, but it would have been nice to get a couple better looks through the rest of the round and finish off a little bit better.

So it's nice to obviously be in the position I'm in and not having my best stuff. Been playing solid the first two days, but some things we can clean up and looking forward to the weekend, for sure.

Q. Still a few things to work on over the weekend perhaps, but let's have a look at this shot into 3 in the middle of that great run of birdies.

RICKIE FOWLER: Yeah, I just had a nice kind of three-quarter gap wedge here. I did a good job with a few wedges today, I've hit my numbers. As you can see, there was a little bit of wind at times and I did hit some good shots, but it will be nice to continue to hit the numbers and not have any that are off by too much because wedges and short irons, hitting your number next week are pretty crucial.

Q. Absolutely. You had the blemish on 18, but found the water at 8 though. Is it important the week before a major, you don't get everything your own way but actually you do have some of these moments where big par saves come out?

RICKIE FOWLER: Yeah, you have to kind of grind at times, and especially with a major. Hit a great shot in there, the putt was probably harder than the shot. In the afternoon with the greens being soft, it starts getting spiked up a little bit, some footprints. It was a really straight putt so it was hard to really play much. I had to play it kind of just left of center, and you can see it kind of wiggle around. Just nice to hit a good solid putt there after hitting a shot and able to save par. Would have been a little unfortunate to give one away on a par 5 like that.

Q. Just off the lead now heading into the weekend. What are the key things you're looking for from these next two rounds here in Houston?

RICKIE FOWLER: To continue to swing the way we have been. Yeah, a couple miss-swings in there obviously, the one in the water on 18, which we made a great bogey with the lie you get when you have to drop there. No, keep doing what we're doing, get a few better looks. It's nice that a few long ones have gone in, that's always a bonus. I think

just committing a little bit better I think will tighten things up over the weekend after the start we had.

Q. Put yourself in good position for the weekend, pretty happy with it?

RICKIE FOWLER: Yeah, obviously in a good position and nice to be there, you know, with making some mistakes the first couple days. Definitely happy with where we're heading. I know I can clean some stuff up over the next two days. But yeah, good solid start, and like I said, I know we can get some stuff cleaned up the next two days and next week.

Q. When you're this close to the Masters, are you trying to work on specific things with your swing or are you more trying to achieve a state of mind and work on confidence?

RICKIE FOWLER: Continuing to work on swing things and kind of trying to dial that in, but it's very minimal in a way. You're not trying to make serious changes the week prior but making sure it's dialed in and it's heading the right way and not getting too far off.

I feel like golf, you're always kind of teetering one way and to the next in trying to find that sweet spot and not move too far away from it. Other than that, I think it's more going through the process, making sure you're mentally going into each shot and looking at things properly and committing to things, not having a lot of mental errors, especially around a place like Augusta during the Masters. I think it can be more so mentally challenging than it is physically.

Q. Is it important for you to keep the competitive juices flowing going into the Masters, being here playing a tournament?

RICKIE FOWLER: I think it helps. I talked about it in the press conference the other day and yesterday. For me, I think it's beneficial to play the week before, especially with how they've done a great job of setting up this golf course to get the conditions, the way they mow the grass and getting the greens up to speed a bit to give us something similar to what we may see next week. I think it's a great thing, like I said, for me. It's not the best thing for everyone, but I like playing the week before and getting the juices flowing, and then you're teeing it up Thursday next week and you're not far removed from tournament golf.

Q. Jordan was up here a few minutes ago and he said that he's already accomplished everything he wanted for this week, from here on out it's kind of icing on the cake. Is that the case for you, or do you feel like you have more work yet to do?

RICKIE FOWLER: I would definitely agree with that. It's been a great week so far and the checklist for the most part, we have everything done that we wanted to get done going into next week. I think the only two things left would be in contention late Sunday and holding the trophy.