

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW
March 30, 2018

PHIL MICKELSON (-5)



Q. (in progress) nine-hole start yesterday, contrast what happened since.

PHIL MICKELSON: Well, I've only had two holes over par but they happen to be a double and a triple. That can happen out here because every hole has, it seems like there's hazards, water, something left and right. Unfortunately, I missed it where you can't miss it on 18 left, and then you're not left with any real great option either because you're on such a side-slope for the drop and I ended up making triple there.

Yesterday I made double on the par 3 where I kind of had an unfortunate break, and then I just had a really bad lie and tried to dig it out and it rolled back into my footprint and made double.

But I fought hard, I've putted well. I just haven't struck it -- today was the worst ball-striking round that I've had this year. But I was able to fight to stay in it, and if I get it going tomorrow and get it turned around, usually with Gets in here we can turn it around pretty quick, I should hopefully make a good move tomorrow.

Q. And with the wind shifting, how much did that battle you today if the striking wasn't as pure as you would like?

PHIL MICKELSON: It's certainly challenging, a lot of crosswinds and a lot of crosswinds taking the ball to bad spots, so it's a challenge. But the greens are soft, they're perfectly pure and you can make a lot of putts. So you can shoot a low round, it's just that it's a lot more difficult than it was yesterday.

Q. It was quite a putting display, I know you have to be really pleased with how you're rolling it.

PHIL MICKELSON: Yeah, I've been putting well all year and so I made a lot of great saves today for par, and I needed to because I didn't strike it very well.

Q. How was it today?

PHIL MICKELSON: Oh, man, it was a struggle for me today. I didn't strike it very well, but I putted phenomenal to stay in it. I've got Andrew Getson in here, we'll go work it out and see if we can get it dialed in for tomorrow. It shouldn't be too far off because I've been hitting the ball very well, but today was certainly an off day. Coupled with the wind, my misses were made a lot bigger and it was a tough day, but I putted great to stay in it.

Q. Fans love to see you guys post big numbers every now and then, even though they love you to post low numbers.

PHIL MICKELSON: Well, stick around because it's happening. Unfortunately, there are a lot of big numbers out here. There's a lot of difficult shots and trouble left and right on a number of holes, and I found some of it. I've only had two over-par holes, though, but they've both been a double and a triple.

Q. Phil, is this one of the reasons you come to an event like this before the Masters, in order to be able to work your way through when you have a rough day, to still have couple rounds competitively before you get back at it at Augusta?

PHIL MICKELSON: That's exactly why, yeah, exactly, because now I'll be able to identify the area that I don't feel sharp and I'll go work on it and try to get it turned around and be sharp. At the majors you don't have the luxury to really miss big because the penalties for misses are so much bigger. Here you can still get away with it, and I've got -- it also shows me what areas of my game I need to work on. So now I have some time, I've got five days or so to work on those things and try to get sharp and make sure it's ready. But in the meantime I also think I can get this thing turned around pretty quick and make a move I don't think anybody's going to get too far under par with the difficult wind conditions and I should be able to stay within striking distance to try to make a move tomorrow.