

**ROUND 3 INTERVIEW**  
**March 31, 2018**

**PHIL MICKELSON (-5)**



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**Q. Two straight days with a couple big numbers on the card. What's your level of concern with that?**

**PHIL MICKELSON:** Well, the course out here has hazard in play on every hole except for No. 1, whereas at Augusta it has a hazard in play on two holes, so that's good and that allows me to play Augusta and not have to be perfect. But here if you miss it, every hole there's options for hazard, water, and a lot of holes both sides.

I've been driving the ball very well this year, I have not driven it well this week. I've been putting very well all year and I'm putting well this week, and that's the one thing I need to be sharp next week is putting. I can get away with some drives over at Augusta, you can't get away with them here, but yet I'll still have to work on it.

**Q. You spoke yesterday about wanting to work on and improving your ball striking after the second round. Did you find any gains today versus how you were hitting it yesterday?**

**PHIL MICKELSON:** Not the way -- I'm not striking it the way I've been striking it this year. It's not far off, I started to find it a few holes coming down the stretch. But it's not something I'm too worried about because it's been consistent day in and day out, week in and week out. And these last two days haven't been as sharp as, say, the first or some of the other rounds this year, but certainly that's where I will spend my time as I head into Augusta. Obviously I'll try to keep my short game sharp. My chipping, putting is as good as it's ever been and that's a real positive heading into next week. I'm driving it longer, but I also this week, I'm a little worried that I missed some that I haven't been missing and so I'll have to work on that.

**Q. With your short game, you just mentioned playing pretty well right now. Where your kind of stand with the short game going to Augusta?**

**PHIL MICKELSON:** Yeah, that's the area that's the sharpest. I've worked on it a lot, and it's actually better than it's been is the chipping and putting. So I'm pleased with that. But for me to have the level of results I want next week, I've got to strike it the way I've been striking it earlier this year, not today.

**Q. I talked to some guys who mentioned some of the changes about Augusta from just a typical tour week. Looking at the green books as you would get into tour week, do you like not kind of having that at your disposal, just being able to have to go off your feel and your experience on the greens?**

**PHIL MICKELSON:** No, I like the greens book. I, first of all, think it speeds up play because 80 percent of my read is done as I'm walking up to the green. So first of all, I think it speeds up play for me.

And second, it saves me a lot of work because I have to basically create my own greens book and it takes me hours and hours and days and days to do what some guy can do with a laser in a matter of minutes. All my practice is built around those greens books, per se. In my yard I have a 1, 2, 3, 4-degree slope, I practice on that so I can equate it to the greens book when I see it and then dial it in. But 80, 90 percent of my read is done as I'm walking up to the green and then I just fine tune it when I get there. So I think it slows up play quite a bit.

**Q. How long did it take you to get your green book for Augusta to kind of where you want it now?**

**PHIL MICKELSON:** Well, it's still evolving, I'm still adding to it. It's never quite complete, but the more I play there, the more detailed it gets.