

PHIL MICKELSON (-10)

Q. Phil, you told me on Friday it was your worst ball-striking round of the year. 17 of 18 greens today, what did you find in the 36 hours since?

PHIL MICKELSON: Well, it can't be too far off because I've been striking it so well this year and it was just a little bit of a rhythm thing. Having Andrew Getson here really helps straighten it up quickly. So we had a little session this morning and it settled in quite a bit. I hit a lot of good solid shots, and like you said, hit a lot more greens and had a stress-free bogey-free round.

Q. I know things were finely tuned for you coming into this week, but what do you take away from four days' worth of work to next week?

PHIL MICKELSON: Well, I think what is so great about playing this week is that I'm able to identify the areas that I need to work on, to focus on the days leading into Augusta. Again, I'll continue on ball-striking and driving, trying to pick up some speed a little bit now, keeping my short game sharp, and I can't wait for the tournament to start. I've built some nice momentum here these first couple months of the year and I'm excited to play our first major. It's certainly my favorite tournament of the year.

Q. Does going bogey-free today make it easier to focus on the positives from the week rather than big numbers?

PHIL MICKELSON: Yeah, I think so, I think that's exactly it. I have played a number of bogey-free rounds this year, I've played a lot more rounds stress free, and the first three rounds were a bit of an anomaly to how the year's been going, yet it's very consistent with the way my career's always gone. So to have a round like today I think gives me a little bit more momentum and confidence in the ball-striking knowing that it's never too far off.

Q. Phil, this tournament has been here over 70 years. They don't have a sponsor next year. Can you talk about how important this tournament is to you, to the Tour, and the history that brings?

PHIL MICKELSON: Well, I know all the players certainly have loved coming here. We've enjoyed the community involvement, we've enjoyed the charitable contributions that this tournament provides the community of Houston, especially now in the wake of Hurricane Harvey. And from a golf standpoint, it's got a lot of history here. So I'm hoping that as much good as the Houston Golf Association does, as much good as this tournament does for the community, I'm hopeful that we'll find a sponsor to step up and continue this strong event.

Q. What do you think about the reaction you get here every year like this now?

PHIL MICKELSON: I love it, yeah, I love it. This town, this city has got a special place in my heart because of the medical community that it has and how it's certainly done so many great things for my family.

Q. Are you where you want to be heading into the Masters?

PHIL MICKELSON: I always like to win. I feel that if you're playing well enough to win, your game is sharp and ready. Two of my five majors I won the week before, so I would have liked that but this gives me a chance to again focus on the areas that cost me this week and I'll try to get those ready for next week.