

**ROUND 1 INTERVIEW**  
**August 2, 2018**

**TIGER WOODS (-4)**



**Q. Your thoughts on the round?**

**TIGER WOODS:** I felt like today I didn't quite hit it as well as I wanted to, but I fought out a score today, which was good. Really felt like I putted well. I did a little bit of work yesterday trying to get a feel for the ball rolling out because the last time I played it wasn't -- that wasn't the case. Hit a lot of putts from above the hole yesterday, and consequently, today I felt really comfortable.

**Q. You missed your first fairway on the 18th hole, which was your ninth of the day, but then on that back nine, the front nine, the only fairway you hit was 6. What was the difference?**

**TIGER WOODS:** I just didn't -- I just kept either hitting a pull or hitting a cut. I just couldn't quite get a feel for it. And even with my irons I wasn't very sharp on the back nine. But I was just kind of hanging in there with it. Wasn't exactly what I wanted to do today, but as I said, I ground out a score today, which was good.

**Q. Did you feel like you had to shoot low today with the conditions, seemed like Rory talked about --**

**TIGER WOODS:** I mean, I saw that I think Kyle was 6 under through 10 and, you know, it just -- I felt like today that anything that was going to be -- a good score would be a 67 or so. It looked like everybody's under par today, everyone's taking advantage of it. It is soft, the greens are holding and it's so hot, the ball's flying forever out there. So the golf course is really not playing very long and it's very receptive.

**Q. Jason said he thinks you're close to going on a tear. How far off do you think you are from being back to where you want to be?**

**TIGER WOODS:** Well, it's nice to shoot rounds like I did at The Open and like I did today, put together rounds where I may not feel the best but I'm able to post a score. That's how you win golf tournaments. You're not going to have your best all four days and it's a matter of that bad day being 2, 3 under par instead of being 2, 3 over par. And then everyone has their hot days. When you go hot, you can shoot 8, 9 under par, but it's your off days. And today certainly wasn't as sharp as I wanted it to be, but I shot 4 under par today.

**Q. Tiger, there's a report out there that you'll be playing golf Thanksgiving weekend in Las Vegas. Can you comment on that?**

**TIGER WOODS:** I have nothing further to add to it. We haven't signed anything, nothing's confirmed. As soon as it is, then we'll let you guys know.

**Q. You talked about yesterday you only played nine holes in practice and today you felt like you didn't have your best stuff. Knowing that you're going to be playing the next five out of six, rest compared to rust, was that part of it maybe because you didn't get to come in early? You know what I'm saying, trying to get a little bit of rest as compared to playing --**

**TIGER WOODS:** You know, it's trying to manage my -- the training's going to be the easier part. All the gym work, that will be the easy part. It's managing my practice sessions because I want to practice a lot, I want to figure it out, I want to get better, I want to be ready. But then again, I have to manage this as quite a bit of golf I'm going to ask my body to go through at tournament speed for basically the next almost two months. I've got to manage that and really make sure I take it easy in my practice sessions and make sure I'm ready for the tournament rounds.

Last week was a little bit different, I just went away with the kids and we got away from it, but now I'm back to the grind here with a lot of tournament golf coming up. And they're all big events, they're all either World Golf Championships, majors or Playoffs. They're a big deal on the back end, and hopefully I'll be playing in Paris as well.

**Q. What clubs did you hit on 16 and also your birdies on 5 and 7, what did you hit off the tee?**

**TIGER WOODS:** Okay. 11, I hit a nice little 9-iron in there. 16, I had a 60-degree sand wedge in there to about 10 feet. And you said 5?

**Q. 5 and 7.**

**TIGER WOODS:** Yep. 5, I hit an 8-iron past the hole about 20 feet, and 7, I hit a 7-iron pin high left and I made about a 30-footer down the hill.

**Q. Did today feel kind of like the old days?**

**TIGER WOODS:** It did. I was saying earlier that I've seen a couple people out here that I've seen for over 15 years out here. They've followed us, they live in the area and they support us and they've supported me over the years. They come out and followed again. It was amazing how warm it was out there, not just the temperatures, but just the fans. They love this event. They've also supported this event and they're sad, too, that it's not going to be here anymore. I told them jokingly, just give me eight more years and I'll be here riding that cart down the fairway with these guys. (Laughs.) For us, for me especially, I've had so many great memories here. Hopefully, I can have one more.

**Q. The last several tournaments you have been well back after the first round, maybe**

**not in shots but place, I think going back to Bay Hill actually, you haven't been in the top-10. Is it kind of nice to not have to be fighting from so far back? Even at Carnoustie, you were 30th place or something like that.**

**TIGER WOODS:** Correct. Well, yeah, it is a little bit easier, but then again, there are so many rounds that are under par, we're all bunched again and I believe there's over 20-some odd guys already under par. So it's going to be one of those weeks, especially if it gets as hot as they're predicting, we're going to be bunched. At least this time I'm not as far back, but tomorrow, you know, I've got to go get it in.

**Q. (Question about Firestone being gettable.)**

**TIGER WOODS:** Normally, if it's gettable, it usually has rained and it's soft. No, I haven't played in a few years, so it's been a while since I've seen it where it's been as soft as it is, but also the ball going as far as it is. The rough is certainly up, but then again, we're driving it 315, 320 in the air with no problem because it's just so hot.

**Q. Do you ever surprise yourself on a golf course with shots you've been working on for a tournament? Do you ever feel surprise when you're out there?**

**TIGER WOODS:** Every now and again, yes, yes, I do, but not on a day in and day out basis, no. I try and play within myself and execute the shots that I've hit in practice. But then again there are some shots that I've had to manufacture like I did today, but it's nothing new, I've done it before and hopefully I'll continue doing it.

**Q. If you threw links golf out of the mix, there have only been a couple guys in their 40s win a major over the last 25 years, but if someone in their 40s were to (inaudible,) it wouldn't surprise you, I would think. So what is the dynamic here where guys are capable, but for whatever reason it becomes harder for them?**

**TIGER WOODS:** Well, I think it just gets harder in general as you get older. It's the recovery, it's just not as easy to recover from day in and day out. When we're in our mid, early 20s it's easy, it's easy to recover, it's easy to feel great the next day. It gets a little harder as you get older. We're not as -- I certainly -- I have nowhere near the speed that I used to, I can't do the things I used to be able to do, but then again, it's just about managing it and understanding how to play it.

I think that, as you said, it's hard not to take -- it's hard to take links golf out of it just because it takes so much experience to learn how to play it and the guys who are in their 30s, 40s and 50s do well, and the only other exception would be Augusta. I think you get guys who play well every year, like you get a Langer, like you get a Freddie or Raymond. You just know how to play a certain golf course, but the other three major championships are always moving around.

**Q. Do you think guys, when they get to 45 and older, have to have more go right that**

**week than when they were in their 20s?**

**TIGER WOODS:** Yeah, no doubt about it. It's just a little bit harder day in and day out. Just from my time out on Tour, the field depth has gotten so much deeper. There really isn't that much of a margin anymore between someone who is leading the tournament and someone who's just making the cut. It seems like anybody who makes the cut can go ahead and win the golf tournament and that wasn't always the case when I first came out here.