

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW
August 3, 2018

TOMMY FLEETWOOD (-11)



Q. Tommy, 7 birdies, no bogeys and a 63. How did you take it so low today?

TOMMY FLEETWOOD: Yeah, no 5s on the card is always something nice to look at. Played well. Got out of position a couple of times. When I did, I kind of got away with the tee shot on 14 and made a really good 4. Fairway bunker, and played it left and made a good 4. Overall I drove it well. My irons, I just tended to hit exactly where we were picking the spots and I holed a few putts. You've got days like that where it's going well and you've just got to make the most of them.

Q. How important were the birdies on the par 5s coming in for you? At 5 you almost knocked it right in the hole and then made the long putt of about 25 feet at 7.

TOMMY FLEETWOOD: Yeah, it's just good to keep momentum going. There's little things in each round that helps keep momentum. 2 was a big one really, just making 4 at that par 5 being out of position off the tee. You feel like when things are going well, you're going to pick one up at a par 5, so that was important.

A couple of nice putts coming in. 5 was a beauty. The crowd didn't react, I thought it was about 10 foot away when I was walking up. I'm sure that's closer than what I think. So.

It was just a good day, one of those days where you keep going. You've just got to keep your mind. There's tough shots coming in and I've said it a few times, you're always -- just how tight the course plays. You don't have to be a little bit offline and bogey's (inaudible.) And as easy as it's played for two days with no wind and it being soft, there's no holes that are like gimme holes out there.

Q. You seem to have developed a nice trend of 63s?

TOMMY FLEETWOOD: Yeah, it's a good one to keep going, isn't it? If I can just up it to like two a week, that would be better, wouldn't it?

Q. (No microphone.)

TOMMY FLEETWOOD: Massive, well, massively, yeah. Next step is a PGA TOUR win, so a WGC would be a lovely way to do that. They're the biggest events in the world -- majors, WGCs, PLAYERS, and of course the BMW at Wentworth. Those are the biggest tournaments you're going to play and they're the best fields in the world, so if you can win one, I mean, it's great to be in contention again and winning them shows you're a proper player.

Q. What did you have for your third shot on 2 from the bunker?

TOMMY FLEETWOOD: In the bunker off the tee and then left, I was playing left a little bit because I knew it was safe. I had 67 yards to the pin out of the rough. It came out quite nicely really. One of those that comes out just how you see it.

Q. Did you feel like you were giving a stroke away if you don't make 4 there?

TOMMY FLEETWOOD: Well, I think so. It was playing pretty short today. I mean, if it had hit the fairway, had about 200 to the front, so it's playing pretty short. But like I say, you've still got to get tee shots away, it's just so opposite, it seems like a lot of people are doing that. But a reachable par 5 on a course that's not that easy and you know you have to make birdies to stay up there, obviously you want to keep that going.

Q. Is this one of those events you watched growing up?

TOMMY FLEETWOOD: Yeah. It's like me dad's favorite event pretty much. He came last year because he always wanted to have a picture in front of the Firestone golf ball, so I've always watched this one.

Q. Who's your dad?

TOMMY FLEETWOOD: Pete. He's called Dad, but I think it's Pete.

Q. You've won before; maybe not out here, but you've won before obviously. How does this compare, whether it's the golf course or the setting or the media exposure, like how does this compare to the wins that you had before, or do you just have to convince yourself that this is the same thing?

TOMMY FLEETWOOD: Well, it is the same essentially, it's the golf course and it's you. You're just playing in the best field in the world really. It just makes it that extra little bit more difficult really to win. But essentially you're hitting the shots. Good swings are always going -- they're never going to do you any harm, and if you hole a few putts, it's all the same. No matter what golf course or what field you're in, you always have to shoot a certain score. But these are the best players in the world so it just makes it that bit tougher.

Q. What one thing made you play the way you do today that you weren't playing three years ago?

TOMMY FLEETWOOD: Golf swing, golf swing's like miles, miles better. I was struggling with a couple of things that I couldn't achieve in my swing just through -- everybody has their own little unique things that they do and I was sort of working against them a little bit. Today, my swing turned better. Still with my little idiosyncrasies, if you like, but I know what they are and I know how to play with them.

Q. What are your reflections on Carnoustie?

TOMMY FLEETWOOD: Well, as a tournament, I thought it was amazing. I got excited when I saw Tiger at the top of the leaderboard even though I was trying to win. And, you know, for me, it was disappointing, felt like I was playing well and when you put yourself up there again, The Open, it's your home open, for us it's the one, it's the biggest event. To have a chance is amazing in it. You always want to, whatever major it is, you're always on a massive comedown when you've been in contention, it takes so much out of you. So it was disappointing, but at the same time another step forward. It was, again, my best Open Championship performance. It wasn't what we wanted, but obviously I'm still improving and still putting good showings in, but when you're up there, you want to kind of tick it off.

Q. Is there another name on the top of the leaderboard that would get you excited if it wasn't yours?

TOMMY FLEETWOOD: Tiger Woods.

Q. Besides that?

TOMMY FLEETWOOD: Everybody gets me excited.

Q. Are you guys trying to send a message to the Americans?

TOMMY FLEETWOOD: I can write them a letter, no problem, if they want me to send a message. No, we're just getting on with our own stuff.

Q. Did you think you left yourself with just a tiny too much to do for the weekend and now you're actually --

TOMMY FLEETWOOD: No, no. Shinnecock was one of them things, yeah, I could have won. I had a putt (inaudible.) I had a putt essentially that might have won it, but it is what it is. I was in contention going in Saturday. Had a bad Saturday and came back strong Sunday. But no, I haven't thought about it too much. It was great and like a little piece of history to have on my own, but can't go back, so I don't think about it that much.

Q. Did you watch the tournament here with your dad when you were a kid?

TOMMY FLEETWOOD: Watch the tournament here?

Q. You said it was your dad's favorite.

TOMMY FLEETWOOD: Yeah, I used to watch it. We always watched TV, yeah.