

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW
August 3, 2018

IAN POULTER (-11)



Q. Between winning in Houston and giving yourself a very good chance in Hilton Head and now giving yourself a very good chance here, is this one of the longest stretches of good golf of your career?

IAN POULTER: Yeah, I mean, it's a decent stretch. I've obviously in a good bit of form. I mean, I've only won once twice in a season so I'd like to do it again. That was all a very long time ago. I might have won twice twice, three times, I don't know. You'll have to have a look. It's been a while, so I would like to do it again.

The continuation of form I've had, even if you think about from THE PLAYERS last year all the way through, it's been pretty consistent. So the stuff I'm working on is working and I feel comfortable with my swing, I feel comfortable with everything else on the course, off the course and it's good, I love it.

Q. You mentioned yesterday that in 13 starts here you thought you had done better than it turned out you had. Are you surprised to be where you are through 36 holes at this point or is this sort of righting a wrong?

IAN POULTER: No, it's always -- in these big tournaments, WGCs or majors, you want to be in the lead. I wouldn't ever say it's a surprise because if it's a surprise, then you probably think you shouldn't be there.

Q. I mean just on this course, you were talking yesterday that you were surprised --

IAN POULTER: I was surprised my results in the past haven't been good on a golf course that I actually, if I think about it, pretty much suits my game. If you look at my stats all around, driving accuracy's pretty good, iron play's been good this year, I think I'm top-10, and obviously quick greens. So all that says I really should be able to play this golf course.

Q. I was following you a couple holes out there, you seemed very focused today. Is that normal for you? It just seems a little bit more today than --

IAN POULTER: I'm not trying any harder than I've been trying for 19 years, but I feel comfortable in my game, so whatever that is, what gives the impression that I'm looking very comfortable and calm, when you're making birdies and you're at the top of the leaderboard and you're not making many mistakes, then everything's kind of stress free.

Q. It must be difficult coming out after such a low round (inaudible)?

IAN POULTER: Yeah, I mean, it's never -- 62, to try to follow that up doesn't normally happen very often. So I knew that -- I knew, you know, as well as I played yesterday, it's always hard to get that same feeling the following day. Missed a couple fairways, pulled a couple of iron shots, didn't convert a couple of good opportunity putts I would have expected to. Greens were a tiny bit quicker this morning, freshly mowed, so that took a little bit of adjusting.

So yeah it's never going to be easy just to go out there and feel like, hey, we're going to go do another 62. But I'm playing well, I feel aggressive. I feel like the greens, the way they are, you can be super aggressive, and that's what I need to do. I need to keep reminding myself that if I play aggressive, it kind of brings out some of the good golf in me and I need to continue that.

Q. What do you expect on the weekend? Not from you, but from the golf course.

IAN POULTER: What do I expect? I don't expect the greens drying out, not really. As humid as it is out right now, there's a bit of cloud coverage, I don't really see them drying up too much. The fairways might firm up a tiny bit so the ball's going to go a bit further for the longer hitters.

Q. Sideways, too?

IAN POULTER: Potentially. So I think the course is going to give up birdies. You're going to have to go low this weekend.

Q. 68.3 the average score yesterday for Firestone.

IAN POULTER: Is that the lowest of all time?

Q. For first round. That's not what you expect when you come here, I wouldn't think.

IAN POULTER: No, but I guess it shows you how strong the players are, you know, because I don't think the course has played too different to previous years when we've played when we've had rain during the week and greens are super soft and you can be aggressive to every pin. So I just think it says how good the top-50 players in the world are.

Q. (Question about the Ryder Cup team.)

IAN POULTER: Frankly, I don't care, as long as I'm putting the shirt on the end of September, I don't mind whether I make it on merit or whether Thomas picks me. I would like to do enough to make it by my own good play, and if I keep doing that, then obviously I will. So I've got a few tournaments left, I think I've got four tournaments to put some more points on the board. You know, I can just do what I can do and see what happens.

Q. (Question about events yet to be played.)

IAN POULTER: PGA, New Jersey, and I'm not sure if I'll play Boston yet.

Q. Why wouldn't you?

IAN POULTER: Why wouldn't I? Because I've had a busy summer, I've played a lot of golf. If I'm in a position where I feel that I'm not sure when the picks are or I would like to take an extra week off and be very ready for the Ryder Cup. I've never made the FedExCup.

Q. You came close one year, didn't you?

IAN POULTER: I was extremely close, I was tied 30th. Missed that by .02. Not that I remember too well.

Q. You talk about being comfortable outside the golf course as well. What made you make those changes?

IAN POULTER: Because I had to, simple fact.

Q. Something you found out or somebody helped you?

IAN POULTER: I mean, there was a lot going on, so just simplified things, restructured a number of things and tried to make things a little easier and we did it.

Q. Can you be specific on those things?

IAN POULTER: No, none.