

ROUND 3 INTERVIEW
August 4, 2018

RICKIE FOWLER (-8)



Q. (No microphone.)

RICKIE FOWLER: I don't know him. Him being a Ravens guy, I know the owner of the Ravens pretty well, so a connection there. It's cool to, you know, have guys like him. I feel like we get to meet a decent amount of athletes and other people who are successful, whether it's the business world, that all love to play golf and enjoy watching us. So we've had JR Smith come out a couple times to this week. He's a die-hard golfer. There's a lot of guys. Obviously you look at probably one of the big ones right now playing in some events, Steph Curry.

So it's cool that golf is kind of the common ground. It's definitely something that guys like Ed can play for a long time. Obviously he's not going to be competitive in football once he's done, obviously now, but golf is something he can go and try and I guess it's something they can see that they can continue to work at and get better.

Q. Get the competitive juices flowing?

RICKIE FOWLER: Yeah, without beating your body up.

Q. It's funny, because so many people would want to trade places with him, but he would probably trade places with you in a heartbeat.

RICKIE FOWLER: Oh, I think especially now. Obviously sitting on the sidelines, he would love to be in that position. He can definitely relate being as good as he was at what he did. These are the best players in the world out here. So it's cool when you get guys that were the best or some of the best at what they did and just learning from each other. I mean, that's the only time I've been around him, but seems like he would be someone fun to go play golf with and hear some stories from him, just pick each other's brains.

Q. So you have these two beautiful rounds and then in the middle you have this not-so-good round. So do you look at it as it's overall positive, or does yesterday seem all the more befuddling to you after you came back today?

RICKIE FOWLER: No, it's kind of how this golf course is in a way. For one, I didn't get the ball close enough to have really good looks, but on top of that, I didn't make anything. So, I mean, the one double bogey I made was a bad swing, that's going to happen. But as far as scrambling, getting the ball back in play, getting the ball up and down, making a putt, making a par, I could have easily walked away with par, bogey at worst.

And then the other bogeys I made were -- today or Thursday, they would have been pars, whether it's just getting the ball up and down from greenside. So they're just little things. Today, hit the ball a little closer, made putts. And this golf course, especially when it starts to firm up a little more and more, it's a really fine line. Yes, the fairways may be 30-plus yards wide, but if you don't land them in the middle, they tend to want to run out and get into the rough.

So yesterday was just one of those ones where couldn't get momentum going the right way, didn't make anything, so it was nice to come back and clean things up and it will be fun tomorrow.

Q. Very few people are making a move, so do you feel -- you're probably not aware of that, but do you feel better about where you put yourself in position?

RICKIE FOWLER: Yeah, I could see a little bit out there with the boards. Obviously there's still quite a bit for those guys to play coming in. It would be nice to be at least within range to post a number tomorrow. That's really all you can do with where we were coming into the weekend.

So yeah, it would have been nice to get a couple more, but I did make a couple nice putts to save par and keep the round going. Yeah, we took care of basically what we wanted to do. I think 7 was the number that I kind of wanted to shoot. I'll take 5. Better than 64.

Q. Where would this rank? I know you won THE PLAYERS in a playoff, but where would this rank with those if you were able to pull this off?

RICKIE FOWLER: I mean, a win here would be awesome. This is a golf course I've enjoyed playing, I've played well at. It's a World Golf Championship. I mean, for me, the only thing that will come close to topping THE PLAYERS will be a major, just above it. But shoot, you look at the players and it's the strongest field we play. That's going to be something. I mean, I've mentioned it from after we won last -- over the last few years, it's like, hey, regardless what we do, we're always THE PLAYERS champion, so that's kind of cool.

No, this would be great to get the first win of the season and my first WGC, but we've got some serious work to do tomorrow.

Q. How serious -- say somebody came to you and said, well, minus 12 is leading the tournament, you're minus 8 and you could shoot a 65. Would you take that or no?

RICKIE FOWLER: No, that won't win. No, we're four back, we probably need to shoot at least 6 or 7 to have a chance.