

**ROUND 3 INTERVIEW**  
**August 4, 2018**

**RORY McILROY (-11)**



**Q. No bogeys, all you did was smash tee shots all day long. Best you've hit it so far this week?**

**RORY McILROY:** Yeah, for sure, best I've hit it off the tee, and probably the best I've hit it overall. I hit some better wedge shots out there, which was good to see. Wish I could have converted a couple more of the chances, but it sort of all evened out. I holed a couple really nice putts for par in the middle of the back nine, so happy with that. The course is firming up a little bit. The greens are still receptive, but it's definitely playing a little bit tougher today than it has done the previous two days. Happy with everything.

**Q. You have such a tremendous record at this championship, a winner in 2014. With all that and how you played today, how are you feeling about championship Sunday?**

**RORY McILROY:** Yeah, I'm feeling good. It's a great opportunity to test what I've been trying to work on this week, test it under the gun on a Sunday when you have a chance to win. So it's really, I'm excited for it. I think it's going to be great prep for next week as well, so I'll obviously be fully engaged to try to win this tournament but knowing that if I play well tomorrow, it puts me in the right frame of mind going into next week as well.

**Q. What are some of the things you have been working on this week? I saw you earlier on Tuesday (inaudible.)**

**RORY McILROY:** Yeah, so just the same thing. I've been trying to get the club -- trying to get my hands -- the hands have been going away from me and the club's been getting behind me and sort of flat and shoulder plane's been getting flat. Trying to get it back to sort of setting it upright so then I can use my lower body to shallow the club on the way down. I've been working on it all year. The more you play tournaments, the more you fall back into bad habits. It's a bad habit that I got into sort of at the end of '15 so it's been there for a couple years, even more, and I'm just trying to get it back to where I sort of want to swing it.

I stood up here yesterday and someone said, Do you feel similar to how you did in '14, and I said I feel similar in how I can get myself around the golf course, but I'm just not swinging it as well as I did back then and I'm trying to get back to that shape of swing. It's not going to happen overnight, it's a continuous process to try to get back there. But I've been working on it and working on it. It's feeling a little more comfortable and the positions are getting a little better, but I still have a little bit of work to do.

**Q. Unless Poults birdies the last, you're looking at a final group with JT now. Just talk about that match-up amongst all the other stuff going on.**

**RORY McILROY:** Yeah, depends upon what happens. It would be nice. The last time I won here I was 3 behind going into the last day and had a fast start. Yeah, it would be nice to play in another final group. I've played in a few of them this year and I feel like I've handled myself pretty well. I felt like I could have done better at Wentworth and definitely Dubai as well.

Yeah, if I do play the final group, especially with JT, that will be good fun. We know each other pretty well from down in Florida and we practiced together quite a bit last week, so obviously that practice for both of us paid off coming into this week.

**Q. You talk about your awareness of a bad habit. Do you have very clear the way you are going to get away from it?**

**RORY McILROY:** Not really, because something becomes -- it's very easy to say like what were your feelings back then, and the feelings back then, I'll think about it and I'll try to do the exact same thing. My two swing thoughts back in '14 were back the left hand, go straight back and then my right elbow folds. If I do the same thing now, it still doesn't get into the same position. So it's always just trying to find ways or different thoughts to get it where you want it.

Golf in general is a very fluid, ever changing game and you sort of have to adapt all the time and your swing's never going to be exactly the same from one day to the next, but if you can keep it as consistent as possible, that will hopefully produce the best results.

**Q. Obviously that win at Bay Hill broke a drought, but have you sort of got that hunger to win again?**

**RORY McILROY:** Yeah, I finished second way too many times this year, and third, whatever. I played well and I played well enough to win a few times this year and I only got over the line ones. Yeah, tomorrow's a great opportunity to try and win again. I'll need a good round, I'm still a few behind, but yeah, I'm getting a little sick of the second places.