

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW
October 5, 2018

FRED COUPLES (-6)



Q. 32 putts in the opening round, 22 putts today, 26 feet in holed putts in the opening round, 105 today.

FRED COUPLES: Right. Well, that's how you go from 73 to 65. I actually hit the ball very well yesterday as when we talked. You know, I had just come off Pebble where we're putting greens like this and I just didn't make any and today I made them all. I hit it close a few times and made them and made a couple of long ones. I got it around pretty nicely. I do like the course, but if you putt like that you're going to shoot a low score.

Q. You also hit it well, though. No one's birdieing the second hole, 247 yards, what a two that is.

FRED COUPLES: That was unreal and I stepped up there on 1 and birdied it and Snedeker said, "Wow, that's the way to start." And the second hole I just really didn't want to hit a 3-wood and I swung and hit my little rescue as hard as I could, and lo and behold it went right at the flag and ended up about six feet away and birdie-birdie start, I was 5 under after nine. Hit really a bad tee shot on 10, but other than that birdied quite a few coming in and had a good round.

Q. I was afraid at the start of the day I was going to be calling your last round nonmajor on the PGA TOUR. I'm really glad I get to see you play this weekend.

FRED COUPLES: Well, I am, too. I was worried about it because I played pretty well yesterday. The scores really looked good yesterday and I thought maybe 4 under would make the cut and I thought, wow, I can't shoot 5 under. Just got going today and had a good score and get to play on the weekend. So now my goal is just to play with these young guys Saturday and Sunday, whoever I get paired with, and just try and play good golf and not get in their way.

Q. Really good round today. You must be satisfied to make it to the weekend?

FRED COUPLES: I am for sure. I knew I was rolling along and wanted to keep it going because it's kind of a course where if I drive it well, I'm going to have shorter clubs. It was a stretch on 10 and 12 where I sliced a drive, hit a tree and dropped down, I had 200 yards left and I made bogey there. On 12 I thought I hit a beautiful second shot and it caught the lip of the bunker and came down and made a great up-and-in to keep the round going. From then on I birdied three holes to get to 7 under and I played well. I mean, it's not an easy course by that standard, but if I drive it in play, I feel like some of my strongest clubs are my 8, 9 and wedge and I hit a lot of those. I played the par 3s better. Yesterday played the par 5s 1

over and today I think I played them maybe 4 under, so that's a five-shot difference.

Q. As you said before the tournament, it's been a while since you've been out here on this tour.

FRED COUPLES: Yeah. I don't even know besides Augusta what tournament, was it L.A.?

Q. Riviera, two and a half years. Given two and a half years at age 59 now, I know this was your goal to make the weekend. Were you surprised at all?

FRED COUPLES: Well, it's not a sloppy goal. It's kind of hard, what's your goal is to make the cut. But it is and, you know, it certainly wasn't going to be 73-65, I didn't think that would be what I would shoot, but I feel like I can still play. I played well last week, so I had some confidence and I stepped on the course and it's absolutely a really fun, beautiful course. Now, I know the greens are going to get firmer and it might be a little tougher, but for two days I got it around nicely and I do like the course a lot, that helps.

Q. Did you get a putting tip from Brandt or anything?

FRED COUPLES: No, he wanted to yesterday, every time I missed I'd stand there and look at him, but they were good putts. I didn't -- the one three-putt I had was just a complete power lip-out and that was a good putt. Then some of the 10-, 12-footers, they looked good and they just don't go in, so it wasn't like I was not stroking them well.

Today I made a 25-footer on the very first hole, which certainly made the hole look bigger, like someone -- I didn't know I had 22 putts, but if I can have 22 putts every now and then I'm going to shoot a low score.

Q. So now that you made the weekend, do you allow yourself to think about getting a top-10? You were T-21 last time.

FRED COUPLES: Well, you know, I'm certainly not going to go out there and not try to keep playing well. I think I can.

BRANDT SNEDEKER: You think you can?

FRED COUPLES: Right. He thinks I've got a putting lesson, which I just look at him and they go in, but he had six- and eight-footers all day long. He didn't make a couple, but he played unreal.

Q. He said if he could have puttied for you yesterday, you would have shot 63 or 64.

FRED COUPLES: I told him about that. Honestly, I would be playing with him tomorrow, but that's too darn bad. Luckily, I'm playing tomorrow.

Q. What gives you more confidence, is it the fact you're putting it into play or the fact you're finishing off with the putts on these greens?

FRED COUPLES: Well, he's 13 under, so he's hitting it pure and putting like he usually does, so that's what happens. For me, yesterday and today were complete night and day. I probably played a little better yesterday.

Q. But you finished it off with the putter?

FRED COUPLES: I did, I was hitting it nice.

I told him some people think I'm easy to play with. This guy, he's so easy to play with and watching him birdie all those holes at least felt good yesterday. I didn't feel bad about my round. I knew I could come play a better round.

BRANDT SNEDEKER: I couldn't lose to a 59-year-old.

Q. Last time we saw you at a PGA TOUR stop, Riviera 2016. I'm not going to do you like the guys in the booth who mentioned your birthday earlier in the week.

FRED COUPLES: Right.

Q. The oldest guy in the field ties the low round of the day at 7-under 65. It looked like it was easy. What was it like inside the ropes?

FRED COUPLES: Well, I really like the course. I had never been here and yesterday I played very, very well. I putted not horribly and I knew today if I could just hit the ball all right, make some putts. I made a nice one on 1 and then birdied the 250-yard par-3 2nd and then I just kept going. Inside the ropes, I played with Cantlay, who I know at home, we play a lot, and then obviously Sneds, he's so easy to play with, he played fantastic golf. It was fun, I enjoyed it. I'm certainly thrilled that I got a sponsor's exemption here and I feel pretty good about today's round.

Q. You go from 32 putts on Thursday to 22 today. What's your secret, what changed in 24 hours?

FRED COUPLES: Well, I think the ones that went in I played a little more break, and yesterday I hit the ball much closer and they weren't really bad putts, they were just kind of -- they looked good for a while and they were a little softer. And today I didn't bang them five feet by, but I just played more break and tried to use the grain more. And really by watching Snedeker, I learned from the pace of his putts and some of them curl in the back door. I was 5 under after nine and I bogeyed 10 and then made some birdies to come in, but I just felt better putting.

Q. I promised you at the beginning of the interview I wouldn't mention age, but did

you ever think the number 59 during the round?

FRED COUPLES: No, no. I thought about having a good round when the front nine was going so smoothly, but no. 59, I don't know how you can shoot that on this course.