

ROUND 3 INTERVIEW
October 6, 2018

FRED COUPLES (-8)



Q. Joined by Fred Couples, you electrified the gallery on the front nine with that eagle at 9, pulled you within 4 of the lead at that point. How would you characterize your play today?

FRED COUPLES: I played pretty well. Like you said, I holed that shot on 9. On the front there were a couple birdie opportunities, but when I made the turn, the wind started to pick up and I hit a couple of good shots on 10 and 11 and blah, blah, blah, blah, blah.

But really disappointing two par 5s, kind of downwind. I missed about a four-footer for birdie on 16 and then I actually laid up (inaudible) and made par. It's a tricky course. I'm now seeing what everyone talks about when it dries out. I fought trying to get in close on the back nine to make birdies and just made pars.

Q. After a disappointing day 1, you've been in and out of the first page of the leaderboard, especially today. What's it been like the past couple days to not just make the cut but actually be in the mix?

FRED COUPLES: Well, it feels good. I think this is a good course for everybody whether you're 29, 39, 109, and I really like it, so that helps.

Again, today could I have shot better? Maybe, but Sneds is playing very, very well. So I personally am just trying to shoot as well as I can and have fun and maybe tomorrow come out and hit it solid and try to shoot another low score.

Q. 500 cuts. Now, I know that number's kind of been manipulated a little bit with the Open Championships; 492 I guess would be official. But man, 500 cuts. I didn't play 500 tournaments.

FRED COUPLES: No, I know, I just found that out yesterday. If they're cheating me from British Open cuts, those are better than a lot of other cuts I made on the PGA TOUR. So whatever it is, let's just say it's 500 and we're counting the British Open, I was kind of stunned.

Then someone said, well, how many tournaments did you play in, and I don't even know. But I'm playing the Safeway Open, I'm enjoying it and I'm playing well. I really like the course. I knew when I got here, if I stayed pretty good, I could play it. As you know, the first day was really disappointing because I hit the ball well and now I'm moving up the leaderboard and having a good time.

Q. 26 feet worth of putts that first day. Are you kidding me, dude?

FRED COUPLES: Well, you know, my two birdies, one was a one-incher and the other one was two feet, so at least I got a couple in the hole.

I actually putted pretty well. Sneds said just keep hitting them because you're not putting poorly, so that gives you a little confidence. The next day I think I made over 100 feet of putts, so I coughed up a few the first day and made a few the second.

Q. Well, what happened today with the breezy conditions? This golf course you've really got to play attention to the wind because the greens are starting to firm up?

FRED COUPLES: Yeah, I know, it's getting firm. You know, the hole I bogeyed, I was right in front of the flag on a tough par 3 on the back where the wind was howling, but I'm a little disappointed I didn't birdie 16 or 18 with the wind. 16 I did not hit the green in two, but I blasted out of the trap to about four feet, hard putt and missed it. Then 18 I was never in the ballpark of making 4, I had a 50-footer for birdie.

But I do like it. I feel like if it's windy and hard tomorrow, for me that might help me because I think I'm hitting the ball very, very well and I'm putting good and I'll hopefully have a good score.

Q. Earlier in the week you mentioned the fact that this is going to be your last regular season event.

FRED COUPLES: Right.

Q. Is that the case or is that the first retirement party?

FRED COUPLES: Well, I'm staring at Jeff over here, I may hit him up for another sponsor's exemption. Again, when I got here, I really, really liked this golf course and a tournament I've always watched on TV. So am I going to play Bay Hill or somewhere that's 7,800 yards long? I don't think so. I used to love Riviera, and as you know, you and I are California guys, they've lengthened those holes. They're no fun anymore, either. So this is right up my alley because it's really a shotmaker's course. It's hard when it gets like today and any course would be hard today, but it's tricky in a sense where you've got to know where to miss it, but I really hope to play here next year.

Q. Old-school guy, look at this, there it is right there.

FRED COUPLES: I know.

Q. Maybe when you're 60, huh?

FRED COUPLES: Oh, yeah, let's close it out.