

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW
July 5, 2019



PHIL MICKELSON (+5)

Q. Phil, I guess just the round today, you start off with that birdie. Did you think you could get some things going there today?

PHIL MICKELSON: Yeah, I don't know what to say. I'm just struggling a little bit at the moment, so I'll try to work it out.

Q. You mentioned you haven't seen Royal Portrush in a long time?

PHIL MICKELSON: I haven't been there -- I played it once about 12, 15 years ago I would say. It's a wonderful course, I just don't remember too much of it.

Q. How do you prep for a major championship when you haven't seen the venue?

PHIL MICKELSON: You have to go in early, I think, to see the course and play it in a lot of different winds, because it can play so different. But it's not easy with links golf because of all the nuances, you really need to have some time on the course.

Q. Your impressions of the course, the fans for a first-time event?

PHIL MICKELSON: Yeah, I enjoyed my time here. It's a little shorter than I wanted. People here are terrific, golf course is wonderful, great shape, and I just -- I'm just not playing really good golf right now.

Q. What's the biggest thing you have to work on this week before you head to Royal Portrush?

PHIL MICKELSON: Probably a lot. I mean, there's a lot of little -- all the little things, all the little nuances. Not hitting my short irons close enough, not putting very well, driving it a little bit erratic. So there's a lot of areas I can improve on.

Q. If they're going to move the date around, you would be willing to come back?

PHIL MICKELSON: What do you mean they're moving the date?

Q. Next year I think it's a different date.

PHIL MICKELSON: Oh, when is it? I haven't heard.

Q. I think it's the week after the British.

PHIL MICKELSON: Week after?

Q. Yes.

PHIL MICKELSON: Yeah, I'm not sure. I really enjoyed my time here, but I don't even know the schedule for next year yet to say something.

Q. Phil, 18 looks to be the signature hole this week, trouble on the right, trouble on the left on both the drive and the approach. What's your thought process approaching that hole and then maybe attacking it or maybe able to (inaudible)?

PHIL MICKELSON: Well, there's no place to miss it, so you just have to try to step up and hit a good shot. Both times I didn't -- by not guarding against the water and missing it left, I've gone in the water. I haven't hit two good shots there. Had a lot of penalty strokes on that hole. But it's a good finishing hole because it has such an opportunity for a big number as well as an eagle like we saw with Tony.