

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW
February 14, 2020



RORY McILROY (-7)

Q. Rory, if you'd just give us an assessment of your round today, 67 in the afternoon is usually a pretty good score at Riviera.

RORY McILROY: Yeah, most of the day I did the things that I needed to do, I birdied the par 5s and I didn't put myself in any real trouble off the tee. I missed a few fairways coming in and it makes it very difficult to control your spin and get any spin on the ball coming into these greens.

But managed it well, played the angles, got a couple of really nice up-and-downs towards the end, a nice two-putt on 18. Yeah, I mean, going into the back nine today I turned in 2 under and I sort of said to myself, if I can birdie 11 and if I can birdie 17, then par the rest, I'll be happy. Didn't quite work out that way, but a couple of them there on the back nine coming in was very nice.

Q. Rory, obviously playing well. What's your confidence level going into the weekend?

RORY McILROY: I'm managing my game well. You know, I've hit a couple loose shots here and there, but I'm thinking my way around the golf course and, you know, that's what this place is all about. I mean, you can hit a few squirrely shots and get away with it as long as you miss it in the right places, and for the first couple days I've done that. I'm feeling pretty good about my game. I've hit some nice short irons, I've held on pretty well for the most part, my chipping and short game's been good, so those are all things I'll need over the weekend.

Q. Is this one of those tournaments you want to win extra badly, knock off your checklist given the history of the golf course?

RORY McILROY: Yeah, I think any tournament that you haven't won is one that you'd love to win and add it to your list, but especially here, the history here and the greats that have won here. Yeah, it's such a cool place, cool golf course. I would love it to host a major again one day, I think it really -- when they get the setup right here, it's one of the best we play.

Q. On No. 6 was chipping ever an option and what exactly was your read there?

RORY McILROY: Yeah, luckily, no. The ball landed soft enough and didn't sort of feed back down the hill. The ball was high enough on the green that I could sort of putt it up that little channel and bring it back around. If my ball had fed a little bit more towards the front of

the green after the tee shot, I would have had to have chipped it, but thankfully I didn't have to use that option.

Q. You've been on the other side of the bunker before, right?

RORY McILROY: Yes.

Q. So you've seen both?

RORY McILROY: Yeah.

Q. Which side do you prefer?

RORY McILROY: The low side, that side's much better.

Q. Why do you think the scores are so bunched?

RORY McILROY: It's the nature of the golf course. It's a golf course where you can't really -- you don't really hit it many -- there's no hazards to really hit it in.

You can't really lose a ball unless you're Phil.

It's sort of one of these where if you hit it offline, you're going to get it and you're going to have a chance to recover and use your short game and get away with a par and move on to the next hole. So I think that's why. That's the beauty about Riviera, you don't necessarily have to have your best as long as you manage your game well, you're always going to be in there with a chance.