



TONY FINAU (-6)

Q. One green you missed all day and you hit a couple par 5s in two, and proximity to the hole, you were closest. So when you were hitting greens and hitting it close, you weren't playing safe?

TONY FINAU: No, I was hitting it nicely and the golf course is scorable. I think you've got to kind of play it that way, so I was able to hit at some pins, hit enough fairways to score and it's a nice start.

Q. What's interesting is the greens are just soft enough where you don't have to worry about super backspin if you're in the fairway, right?

TONY FINAU: Yeah.

Q. So it really is all about a number, right?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, 100 percent hitting the right number. I think this golf course showed last year it could yield some good scores and I was able to post a good one today.

Q. I know last week the greens were very, very fast on the weekend. They looked faster than they perceived to be. Were they -- they weren't as fast, I get that, but was it hard to not hit it as hard because they were a little quicker than they look like because of the moisture in them?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, I would say that, I think that's accurate. They played a little faster -- or a little slower than they looked, but the greens are great. When you have morning greens, no matter the pace, they're really smooth and I was able to make some fall when I hit them close.

Q. Tony, 6-under 65 to get things going. Your description of your play out here on day one?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, it was good, a really solid round, really clean. I think I only missed one green and just hit it nicely, gave myself a lot of looks and I think that's what you've got to do around this place. It's soft enough to hit them close and I was able to do that enough today and make some putts.

Q. Familiar face on the bag, maybe a new face as a caddie. What prompted the change to get Boyd out there?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, it's good to have him out. I've had him in the past carry my bag and it's nice to have him see things up close, I think, inside the ropes. Just with everything going on, you can't really watch, so the best way I think for a coach to see it is maybe inside the ropes, so a little change this week.

Q. You guys obviously have a great working relationship, player-coach. What was the dynamic like player-caddie?

TONY FINAU: He didn't do a lot of talking. I told him just kind of hold the bag and play nicely and I'll call him in when I need him. We have a nice dynamic, I think, and a great relationship to where no hard feelings no matter what.

Q. You had a great chance last week at Memorial, an indifferent Sunday. How rewarding is it to come right back and sort of pick up where you left off those first two or three days in Ohio?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, I knew I was playing well. I didn't get the finish I wanted out of last week, but I can always take away positives when you're playing a really hard golf course and scoring well. So as I look back on it, I know I was playing well and just continue to do that and give myself some chances and things will start to turn out different.

Q. What were the positives you took away from that Sunday that you brought here to Minnesota?

TONY FINAU: To be able to build up a lead I had on Saturday, that gives a guy some confidence. I don't think it really matters how I finished the tournament, at least that's the positive I take from it is in that field on that golf course, I was able to play really clean, really nice golf and I think it takes a lot of skill to do that, just to put yourself in that position. So that's kind of what I took away from that week and kind of looking to do some of the same this week.

Q. Comments on the round, highlights?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, let's see. I hit a couple good putts. I think that was the biggest thing, I made some putts when I needed to. I had some really good looks early, wasn't able to make a lot fall, but stayed patient and hit a close one on 16 and I would say that kind of got me going.

Q. What did you have going on your back nine, I think five birdies?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, it was good. I got into a good rhythm out there. I was hitting it nicely. The golf course is definitely gettable if you hit it in the fairway. The greens are just the right moisture where they're not going to spin a lot or bounce over, so you're kind of just hitting your number and the ball's staying around that position. I was able to have a few good numbers and hit it close.

Q. You talked last week about maybe experimenting lengthening your swing a little bit, hitting that hard fade. Did you do that much last week and did you do that at all today?

TONY FINAU: I did a lot more last week. I think Muirfield Village is a golf course you can open it up on a little bit more off the tee and I definitely did that on certain holes. Today, maybe only a couple times. I think No. 12 and then my last hole, No. 9, I tried to get a little extra out of it. No. 9's a 500-yard hole straight into the wind with a back pin today, so that's a hole where I saw maybe trying to put a little extra to have a little less club in. But I think I kind of pick and choose where I want, but it seemed to work last week and I'll definitely pick and choose my spots this week.

Q. Can you talk about the caddie change and the reasons for it?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, I think me and my caddie and I had a great run. We were together for six years and it's a tough thing, you know. On a personal level I love the guy and on a business level I felt it was time for a change in my situation and something just different. Unfortunately, our relationship business-wise has ended, but I look forward to getting somebody on the bag and making another great run.

Q. Obviously you and Boyd are close. What was it like having him on the bag today?

TONY FINAU: It was great. Like I mentioned, we're very close. No hard feelings no matter what, I think that's a good dynamic to have when you're out there. I didn't have him say too much. I know I'm playing well and for the most part just bring him in when I want him.

Q. Will it continue past this week?

TONY FINAU: No, yeah, it's just a one-week thing for him.

Q. How do you shake off last weekend? Was that just an anomaly or is it something you and Boyd will fix?

TONY FINAU: I think mentally you can always take away positives out of every week. I try not to dwell on too many of the bad. Look back and think about the things that I did good and what else I can work on. So far off to a good start this week.

Q. You mentioned last year you have family in this area? Did you get to see anybody this week?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, I just had dinner with my family last night. My uncle runs a restaurant called Vanelli's here in town, so I was there last night with him. Had a nice steak. I think I'll be there more often this week.