

**ROUND 1 INTERVIEW**  
**February 25, 2021**



**RORY McILROY ( -3)**

**Q. Rory, when was the first time you saw the golf course?**

**RORY McILROY:** Tuesday morning.

**Q. Does it take a little extra to get used to it and what did you think out there today?**

**RORY McILROY:** Yeah, I mean, I think with any new course it's just a matter of getting comfortable with visuals and lines off tees, and then I think we're all sort of learning the golf course a little bit as we go along. Sort of every or most Tour events we go to, we basically know where the four pin positions are going to be and we can practice to those. I guess here, new greens, sort of undulating greens, there's a lot of options where they can put pins. You're trying to guess as best you can where they're going to be, but you never really know until you get into the tournament rounds.

Yeah, I think tee to green it's pretty simple, but then around the greens I think it's sort of one of these places, the more you play it, the more you'll just feel comfortable with it.

**Q. How comfortable were you on the greens?**

**RORY McILROY:** Pretty comfortable. I held some good ones, but then I missed some that I should have made. Yeah, I don't feel like I held -- I don't feel like I made bad strokes. Might have been a couple of misreads and putts that I felt that I hit good that just didn't do what I thought they were going to do. I'll go do some work here in a little bit and try to get it figured out for tomorrow.

**Q. You looked like you were working pretty hard yesterday before the round. Was that a longer range session than a typical Wednesday?**

**RORY McILROY:** Yeah, and then yesterday afternoon I grinded. I had a long day. I got to the course yesterday at 7:30 and left at 5:30, so it was a 10-hour day. I slept well last night. I needed to put some work in. I was dreadful last week at Riviera. Put some work in and it's starting to feel a little bit better. I felt my tee-to-green game today was a lot better than it was over the last few days. I'll probably hit some balls first, I feel like I've got a decent feeling on what I'm trying to do, then hit some putts and try to get that figured out as well.

**Q. You said you felt like you were getting too steep. Is that what you were working on, shallowing out in a certain way?**

**RORY McILROY:** No, that's a reaction to where the club gets to in the backswing, right.

You fix the backswing and then the club will naturally want to do what it's supposed to do on the way down.

So if you get the club behind you, like most amateurs know if you get the club behind you on the way back, it's just going to come over the top. It's basically a professional over-the-top move is what I'm trying to fight at the minute. Get the club in a good position on the way back and it wants to do the right thing on the way down.

**Q. Last things, No. 12, does that seem like a no-brainer to go for it for you?**

**RORY McILROY:** Yeah, I mean, I didn't even think about laying up in the practice rounds. I hit a good one today. I didn't actually think I'd hit it that far into the wind and get over that bunker, I actually had a really tricky chip shot. Yeah, if you feel comfortable with the driver, it's one that I'd for sure go for.