

**ROUND 2 INTERVIEW**  
**February 26, 2021**

**TONY FINAU (-9)**



**Q. Tony, I guess you don't even need to practice anymore you've got it going so smooth these days. To what can you attribute the nice run that you're on?**

**TONY FINAU:** Yeah, every year I just try and get better and I feel like I've done that again this year. I think experience has been my biggest life teacher and I've been able to just use some of those experiences of just falling short to just keep me hungry and keep working. I've worked extremely hard on my game and it's nice to see some success early in the year.

**Q. When you're in the situation on a Friday or Saturday, what's the mix between excitement and nerves? Do they all jumble together? Which one do you feel more?**

**TONY FINAU:** Yeah, I would say a little bit of both. I know I'm playing well. I put myself in this position a handful of weeks in a row now, so I think I'm just starting to get real comfortable when my name's at the top of the leaderboard, so I think that's always a good feeling. But I'm playing good golf. Still 36 holes to go, anything can happen. It's nice to have put myself and have another opportunity to win a tournament.

**Q. To be this consistent, do you have to be a resilient personality do you think?**

**TONY FINAU:** Yeah, there's no question. I definitely feel like I'm a tough player mentally, as tough as they come, and I feel like I have to be. When you've come close to winning as many times as I have, I think you could go one of two ways.

I always look at my life and my game as a glass half full. I've always looked at my life that way and it's helped me, but it definitely has made me tough. Again, I think life has been my biggest teacher and I'm kind of showing that resiliency I think early in the season.

**Q. There's a little bit of a paradox there, isn't there, because people will knock you for not winning and yet, like you said, to come back takes an incredible amount of toughness not to get discouraged or whatever. So it's kind of a funny little --**

**TONY FINAU:** Yeah, I've learned again so much just being in the spotlight and so many people wanting me to win, expecting me to win, whatever the case. I think one of the biggest things I learned is just to silence all the noise from outside. I've got my team around me that believes in me. I've got to believe in myself and anything that appears outside of that, I can't control.

**Q. Where's your positivity come from?**

**TONY FINAU:** I would say a lot from my parents, my mom. She's a really amazingly positive person, so definitely from them.

But I think life just has a way of teaching you lessons that you need. For me, that's been my biggest thing, I think just having a tough mentality is always going to be a great thing for you and it is for me, for sure.

**Q. What's been the hardest moments you've had in golf?**

**TONY FINAU:** Oh, hardest in golf, I would say it's hard to say that my hardest moments are on the PGA TOUR just because, I say it time and time again, but I went through seven years of playing mini-tour golf and that's probably when I had to dig the deepest. Taking second out on the PGA TOUR is tough because I know I have what it takes to win and I want to be the best, but when you compare that to what life is really like outside of the PGA TOUR, I knew what that tasted like to not even have a place to play and not make any money and stuff, so it was definitely before I got on the PGA TOUR.

I think it's quite a big deal people are making of me not winning. Again, for me it's just silencing the noise and just trying to play good golf every time I play.

**Q. Tony, did you have any interaction last weekend at Riviera with Tiger over the weekend, even if it was just small banter, saying hello, that sort of thing? Do you remember seeing him?**

**TONY FINAU:** Yeah, it was just real small talk, real small talk. He was happy with the way I played. Obviously for all of us this week took us all by surprise and I think we're still a little bit in shock. Yeah, we just continue to wish him our best and hope for a recovery that, you know, for me doesn't get him back on the golf course, just gets him back in life and back healthy.

**Q. Do you recall seeing him Saturday or Sunday and was he just friendly to you, normal?**

**TONY FINAU:** Yeah, he was normal. Walking off the green on Sunday, I just shot 64 and he told me great playing. That was great to have some of his last words as words of encouragement. For me, I have great memories of being with Tiger in many other instances. It's been cool to get to know him and kind of call him a friend. So we're all thinking about him and hopefully he recovers fast.

**Q. Strong round of golf. I noticed today that you took care of almost every single par 5, but these greens and where they put some of these pins today, it's not easy to make birdie on those par 5s where normally for a player of your length you can beat them up very easily.**

**TONY FINAU:** Yeah, I think that's really this golf course, I think the toughest part of this

around this place is the second shot. And then around the greens, you could put it in -- you could hit decent shots that just put you in a spot that you're screwed. I stayed really patient today and I got off to a great start, so it kind of set the tone for my round and I was able to pick up one on the back.

**Q. Once again you put yourself in a wonderful position going into the weekend. How satisfying is it to continually do that even though you're not getting the wins, but you're still playing at such a high level of golf, and I'm assuming, I know that the wins are burning you up inside not having them.**

**TONY FINAU:** Yeah, no doubt, but it continues to just keep me hungry. I learned a lot about myself at the start of this year. I've been playing some great golf and for me there's no reason to hang my head. I continue to play good golf and I know that the results will just follow. Wasn't able to get the job done on Sunday, but when I got here Tuesday morning I was ready to go to work and here I am again in contention. I'm happy about that.

**Q. How much did the 64 on Sunday at Riviera in difficult conditions, how much belief did that give you going forward? Like listen, I know I can do this because I just shot one of the best rounds on a really difficult golf course. How much did that do for your confidence knowing full well that you can win on the PGA Tour, it's only a matter of time?**

**TONY FINAU:** Yeah, it's huge for my confidence. For the most part when I finish second place, there's always that one guy that I didn't beat who just outplayed me on Sunday. I wanted to be that guy on Sunday and I proved that I was, I shot 64 and I was the low round of the day. Most of the time it's going to get it done. Unfortunately for me, it didn't. I feel great about it and I think just a lot of the fruits of the labors of me just putting a lot of work in and grinding it out to get that next one has proved to me that I'm close and just keep doing what I'm doing.