

**PHIL MICELSON (-3)**

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**Q. Phil, got off to a really quick start with birdies at 1 and 2. Things leveled out. How did you find some of these hole locations coming in here today?**

**PHIL MICELSON:** So I had a lot of short L-wedge shots, I had four or five of them. Not only did I not make a birdie, I played them 1 over, so I've got to fix that tomorrow. It's terrible scoring. Although the greens are firm and it's challenging, you've got to be able to hit those shots closer and make some birdies and I just didn't hit it close enough. Then I three-putted one of them.

I didn't take advantage of a lot of scoring opportunities. Fortunately I played the par 5s well, but after that out-of-bounds mental lapse and that three-putt and hitting 5-iron in the water where I was trying to play it at the water, so the further right you go, I can get there. If I play it in the right rough, I can get there. I thought that there was no question that ball would be short. It's 237, I hit 5-iron into the wind and I just couldn't believe it went in. So I was losing it a little bit mentally. I can't believe I made a 4 there out of the pond and that kind of got me a little bit calm.

**Q. Speak about that, because that was awfully soft right there and you got in there and played it out. Were you ever thinking about not playing that shot?**

**PHIL MICELSON:** I was so heated, I was going to get in there and play it no matter what, how high that mud came up, it didn't matter. It wasn't a hard shot, the ball was sitting fine, so I was going to get in there. I'm going to have to have Callaway send me another pair of those shoes because these were new, but they're not any good anymore.

**Q. Phil, can you just assess your round for us, please?**

**PHIL MICELSON:** So I got a little heated out there because I was letting a lot of scoring opportunities slide. After driving it well and having flip L-wedges into four or five holes and not only did I not make a birdie, I played them over par, I was kind of losing it. Fortunately I made some birdies on the par 5s to kind of salvage the round.

But I've got some work to do to get those short irons close. If I can do that, I can make a lot of birdies here, but this was not the day -- I did not score very well today. I've got to get after it because these guys are making a lot of birdies and I've got to try to pass them.

**Q. You were talking during the TV interview about standing in the water or in the mud. What hole was that and what happened?**

**PHIL MICELSON:** So on 15 I laid up with a 5-iron to stay short of the water. I wanted to try to be in the right rough because it shortens the second shot by 30 yards. It's 237 to the water, into the windy hit 5-iron and went in the water. I couldn't believe it. It was a little upsetting to say the least.

So I ended up having -- it was in the mud, I could hit it. So I got in there with a 9-iron and was able to lay up, and hit another 9-iron close and make birdie, which was crazy. It kind of calmed me down for the last few holes.

**Q. Is that why your shoes look like what they look like?**

**PHIL MICELSON:** Yeah, yeah. Mud's all over me.

**Q. I had a chance to talk to Stacy Hurt the lady whose name is on your ribbon. Just to be an inspiration for somebody like that that's fighting cancer, what does that mean to you?**

**PHIL MICELSON:** So we all have our struggles in life and Stacy's were life threatening. So for her to go through that struggle and all the fears and scares and challenges that that provides and to come out on top is inspiring. That's what's inspiring. So I'm appreciative of the chance to play for her and that this tournament detects and saves so many lives, our sponsor here.

**Q. How tight was your window on your second shot on 17?**

**PHIL MICELSON:** The window was plenty wide, it was plenty wide. I was going to have to hit a rounded hook and if I had carried the bunker, it really wasn't going to stay on the green, it was just going to go over, which wasn't a bad spot. So I didn't -- I wasn't really able to realistically hit the green, but the bunker shot or the shot from just over the green should have allowed me to make birdie.

**Q. Curious your thoughts on this tour, the pairing with you, Furyk and Freddie.**

**PHIL MICELSON:** I've always loved playing with Freddie and Jim, and I love the fact that we got paired together today. It made for a fun day. They're just two of my favorite people to be around. Jim is just a gem. For him to play here where he went to college and have the kind of support, it's a special place for both of us. He grew up and spent a lot of rounds here.

And this is where I first won and memories that I cherish for a lifetime. So we both had -- he was telling a couple stories about the owl on 18 that used to live in that willow tree and all the roadrunners that used to blow up in the mornings. It was just a lot of cool things that took place here.

**Q. What kind of chance do you give yourself being four shots behind?**

**PHIL MICKELOSON:** Well, I'm going to go low. I don't know if it's tomorrow, Sunday will be tough because of the wind, but I'm going to get one down in the low 60s, so I'll have a chance.

**Q. Mike Weir is leading, he's also a left-hander. Is there a kinship among the left-handers?**

**PHIL MICKELOSON:** Yes, it's good to see him play well. He and I went head to head the last time I played in a Champions event in Richmond. He's just a tough competitor and he's playing some good golf.

It's good to see him back out playing well because he had a little bit of a downturn for a few years. And I know he's excited, motivated and working hard. When you have results like that, it's very encouraging and it's good to see.

**Q. How big of a deal is it, you're down four, there's two rounds to go instead of three. You're so used to being three, is that even an adjustment or --**

**PHIL MICKELOSON:** No, because there's plenty of time. It's like four back heading into the weekend. It's on a golf course where I can make a lot of birdies, I just need to execute. And what I didn't do well today is usually the strength of my game, which is wedges. I did not hit my L-wedges close. I'm going to continue to drive the ball reasonably well and give myself chances, and when I get those wedges close and take advantage of the par 5s, I'm going to shoot a really low one one these two days.