

**ROUND 4 INTERVIEW**  
**February 28, 2021**

**RORY McILROY ( -12)**

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**Q. You were kind of giddy when you pulled the shirt out of the bag yesterday and wearing it today. Just thoughts about you guys, all the Nike guys wearing red and black for Tiger?**

**RORY McILROY:** I guess for us it's just a gesture to let him know that we're thinking about him and we're rooting for him. Obviously things are looking a little better today than they were on Tuesday, but he's still got ways to go. He's got a huge recovery ahead of him.

But I think just for everyone to show their appreciation for what he means to us out here. If there was no Tiger Woods, there would be -- I just think the Tour and the game of golf in general would be in a worse place. He's meant a lot to us, he still does mean a lot to us and I think that was just a little way to show that.

**Q. You came into the week pessimistic about your game. Your play this week, did it change your mind at all from where you were on Tuesday and Wednesday?**

**RORY McILROY:** I'm still searching a little bit. There was signs that there's some good stuff in there. I think if anything I felt good with the putter this week, changed from the spider back to the blade which felt good, which was nice.

A little better off the tee as well. Wedges are good. It's sort of when I get into 8-iron down to 4-iron is where I'm sort of struggling. I struggled on the par 3s today, I had some really loose shots and made three bogeys on the par 3s because of tee shots. Still got a little bit of work to do.

I guess if I can come to a World Golf Championship with the best players in the world and not feel like I'm my best and still contend, I guess that's a good sign.

**Q. When you say still searching, are you talking about the takeaway?**

**RORY McILROY:** I hit 5-wood on 15 today to try to put it in play and give myself a look for a second shot. Nearly missed the lake on the right I hit it so far right. I don't know where my miss is at the minute. There's lefts and rights in there, which is not ideal when you've got trouble on both sides. At least if you have a one-way miss you can sort of play away from it.

**Q. The course here, would you like to see the Tour come back here for another go?**

**RORY McILROY:** For sure, yeah. I think this course has been really well received this week. Maybe there was a couple of greens that are a little severe, a couple of pin

placements anyway over the weekend that were maybe a touch severe, but I think when we come back again that the guys who set the golf course up will know that. Yeah, I liked it, I think it's convenient for a lot of guys and I think everyone enjoyed it.

**Q. You and Patrick have some fun history. What was it like playing together in contention wearing red today?**

**RORY McILROY:** It was good. Patrick and I are totally fine. I mean, I always enjoyed being out with him and Kessler. We get on pretty well. I think there's that sort of deep respect there for each other's games. We've had some good battles over the last few years that he's come out on top of most of the time, but yeah, it was good. We both didn't have our best stuff today, we didn't play our best, but we sort of grinded to the very end. It was good.

**Q. I didn't mean to imply otherwise.**

**RORY McILROY:** No, no, not at all.

**Q. Looking at Collin Morikawa's game, have you guys played together much?**

**RORY McILROY:** We haven't played -- yeah, we spent a little bit of time together just with like TaylorMade shoots and stuff. Really solid. He makes a really good move at it, clubface stays so stable through impact. It's sort of hard to think that he could hit a ball offline. Great iron player. And I think the thing with Collin is when he gets the putter going, he's always going to have a chance.

**Q. What's your next move now to get from where you are, a little uncomfortable, to get comfortable?**

**RORY McILROY:** Just playing more, I think. Got a couple of golf courses coming up in Bay Hill and TPC where there's some water to contend with and some trouble lurking on both sides and stuff, so I think a little more work on the range, take it on the course and just try to feel a little bit more comfortable with it.

**Q. How did you skip the driver off the water on 13?**

**RORY McILROY:** Jeez, I know. Just lucky. I can't believe I had a birdie putt on that hole. I thought it was just going to be a re-tee. Yeah, I got fortunate there, I was happy to walk away with a 5.