

**ROUND 1 INTERVIEW**  
**June 11, 2021**



**FRED COUPLES (-4)**

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**Q. Fred, 4 under in the first round. Your thoughts on the day today?**

**FRED COUPLES:** Yeah, I thought the golf course is absolutely perfect. We were first off, the greens were beautiful. I hit the ball very, very well, and then a little scrappy on a couple holes and made a really bad play on 15. I got lucky with my tee shot and I tried to roll it up the ridge to get it close and ended up leaving it on the bank and made bogey there.

Love played with Steve Stricker and obviously Jim Furyk, so it was a great pairing, a lot of fun. And again, this is just a very special event and I try not to miss it for the world, and the best thing about it is I like the course and I play well, so it's kind of a home run for me.

**Q. You played with Steve. Did you guys talk about having the tournament back after a year's absence and seeing the crowd?**

**FRED COUPLES:** We've been talking about that the whole year. No, we talked about kids and golf, and no Ryder Cup stuff. He doesn't need me asking or talking about Ryder Cup. It's always fun. He's very easy to play with, and Jim Furyk is one of the nicest guys in the world on and off the course, so it was a fun group. No, it's so hot, you know, I'm trying to find shade. If they want to walk to talk to me in shade, I'll be more than happy to have them follow me around, but it was really hot.

**Q. You played in heat all your career. At this age, at this point, how hot is too hot and --**

**FRED COUPLES:** Well, you know, to be honest with you, if we did this for another month or so, it wouldn't be a problem, but it's like our first tournament with humid and hot heat. It will whip you.

No, I'm not going to die. I mean, I hope not. But again, it's the first day. Last week I played in Des Moines, it was a little warm but nothing like this. You just get drenched on the range. There's no wind, so it's just hot. Hate to use the word, it's a challenge, but it's not an easy day to keep thinking and keep fresh.

**Q. You were in a pretty good rhythm through your round. At 11 you got a break and turned it into a birdie, but other than that --**

**FRED COUPLES:** No, I really didn't miss many shots. I made a nice birdie on 9, I birdied 10, and then I hit the kid on the side of the shoulder on 11. It still kicked in a better spot than I would have ever been in and I hit a great kind of flip shot to make a birdie there. Then I had

some chances. I mean, I think I could go play where I was on 15 a thousand times and maybe bogey it once and I happened to bogey it today just because I was in a groove and I thought it was not a difficult shot.

Other than that, it was a good round. Bogeyed 17, mis-clubbed a shot, made a good bogey, two-putted from 100 feet. But I made my share of putts, I made a lot of putts.

**Q. Do focus and concentration become an issue in this heat?**

**FRED COUPLES:** Well, focus is always an issue for everybody when they're playing. You want to mentally be prepared on every shot you hit, so you're taking your time. It's very hot. I don't wear a glove so it's a lot of wiping my hands with a towel, but while I'm doing that, I'm really thinking the shot I'm going to hit. Again, even though I'm wiping, I'm thinking I'm going to cut it off the side or I'm going to hit a good solid 8-iron, then you just go ahead and hit it. There's no rushing. It's not like you're playing in the rain and you're trying to get under the umbrella and just take a swipe at it.

But it's a good course. You can look really silly out there and make bogeys, and then you can look like a champ and make a lot of birdies. Just got to get rid of the bogeys. Today I made a lot of putts, but I made three kind of not good bogeys, so I'll try and cut those back, keep making birdies and see what happens.

**Q. I talked to the kid on 11. He was in good spirits.**

**FRED COUPLES:** Yeah, no, I saw him, too. Luckily he turned. I don't know where it hit him, in the back shoulder. But he did me a favor there.