

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW
June 12, 2021



FRED COUPLES (-9)

Q. We'll get started with Fred Couples. Can you start with some overall thoughts on your round today?

FRED COUPLES: You know, I felt like I hit the ball pretty well. I'm not going to say I wasn't getting anything out of my round, because it was blowing in the first seven, eight holes. Then the back nine, you know, I just -- I just started to hit it a little bit better, a little closer to the hole and made some putts.

One of the best shots I hit all day was on No. 4, ended up making bogey there. But I ripped a 5-iron up the hill into the wind and it hit by the hole and just trickled over the green in kind of a funky spot and I made bogey there.

Turned around and made a nice birdie on 8, the par 3. Then made about a 20-footer on 11. And in between all those had a few good up-and-downs, and then the last six, seven holes I played very well and birdied four of them.

Q. Nos. 11, 13, 15, 17, and a makeable putt probably in your mind on 18, right? Do you get to that point and think I can sneak one more in there?

FRED COUPLES: Well, on 16 I had a beautiful drive and I had a 6-iron that hit, didn't even make a ball mark and skipped into the rough. I'll be honest, I haven't been chipping very well, but I hit this one kind of where I wanted and it hit like it was on a sponge and it didn't really release down to the hole.

Then I probably lipped about a six-footer for birdie out. Made a nice birdie on 17. No. 18, you make those once in a blue moon, but it's probably 18, 20 feet and I kind of nestled it up there.

Overall, really 11 was -- I made a nice par save out of the sand on 9 and 10, and then made a birdie putt on 11 to really get to 2 under where maybe if I don't make that putt and maybe don't get one of those up and down, I'm even par. Then I started the snowball rolling.

I will say it doesn't make you play better, but I saw the guys behind me were playing some pretty darn good golf. I think at one time they were maybe 9, 9 or 10 under and I was at 6. Now, you know, I made a little roll, caught up to them. I don't know what they're doing on 18, but at least you've got to catch up here. You're not going to go out and shoot 63 or 64 on this course, it's just too tough. So if you can wear them out with good shots and making a birdie every now and then, then tomorrow will be a fun day.

Q. Is this course, given your history here, playing any different with the hot weather?

FRED COUPLES: Yeah, it's playing really fast. I hit a 4-wood off the first tee today and I had 59 yards to the flag. I don't even know how it got there, it just went miles. Luckily I hit it straight. But that's just one shot, it was downwind, but it's playing really firm and fast.

And it's very entertaining. There are some putts where, you know, I'm playing with Goose, one of the best putters around, and you can tell he's not trying to force anything in there because I think at one time he was 4 or 5 under. So I'm paying attention, too. The greens are very fast. You try and make a 20-foot curler and the next thing you know it goes five feet by and now you've got to sweat that par putt out. I'm just kind of gingerly going along.

And the way I'm hitting it is helping me. Tomorrow I'm going to have to play better. Today was just really a good eight holes of golf and I birdied four of the holes. Tomorrow I've got to start out, play better and work my way into this thing and see if I can hang in there with Jimenez and Kelly and Goosen and Jim Furyk.

Q. So if there's not a 63 or a 64, what is a good score tomorrow in terms of being the chaser?

FRED COUPLES: A good score? If it's blowing -- it's calm now, but if it was blowing a little bit, I'd say a 67 or 68 is a very good score. I don't think they're going to put much water on the course tonight. They've done it so well for every day since we've been here, so why would they soften it up for Sunday?

So if it blows a little bit, you know, a 68 is a heck of a score. Can someone shoot 65 or 66? Yeah. I don't know, did anyone shoot that today? I don't know. It can be done, but I don't think anyone at 4 or 5 under is going to come out and shoot 9 under tomorrow and win. That would be an amazing round of golf.