

ROUND 3 INTERVIEW
July 24, 2021



MAVERICK McNEALY (-11)

Q. Tough conditions. You're in great position in the FedExCup points, 52nd coming into this week. As you go into this final round tomorrow, what's been going well for you this week?

MAVERICK McNEALY: You know, I felt really good about my game for a while. I've been driving it awesome, especially the last month and a half. I think that's a combination of working with Butch Harmon, he's got me swinging it great; my trainer back in Vegas, Jimmy Greathouse, body's healthy and stronger than I've ever been. I just feel great. And then honestly, since I put this new driver, this Epic Speed driver in January, I feel like I can swing as hard as I can and it's not going to go offline. Like on 18 I just -- I have so much confidence that I can rip it and that was one of my best drives of the week. It's easier to play from the fairway in good position and I think if my putter heats up a little bit tomorrow, it will be a lot of fun.

Q. The golf course seemed pretty challenging out there today with a different wind. Can you tell us how challenging it was?

MAVERICK McNEALY: It was really different. I was talking with Brian Stuard today on a couple of the holes. Like on 3, I was hitting 5-iron in in the practice rounds and on the first day, and today I think it was -- I hit -- airmailed a green with a 9-iron. That's how much shorter it was playing.

Same thing with 11, I was hitting punch 6 and 5 irons in there and today I hit a smooth gap wedge to a back pin. So completely different.

I owe my caddie, Travis, a lot of credit for coaching me through those last couple holes especially. It's great caddying on 17 and 18 this week. Yesterday 17, that back pin there, it was 19 -- I want to say 193 and it felt like a little hurt wind, but it played so short and I hit a 7-iron all the way back there. And today wind switched, further back tee and it was a full high cut 5-iron to get it over that water. So he did a good job with making me feel really confident with a club in my hand.

Q. Just overall thoughts on your round today and getting yourself right there in contention?

MAVERICK McNEALY: Thanks. Yeah, it was really solid. I'm really happy. Bogey free is always a good thing. Actually, my caddie, Travis, now owes \$100 to the charity I support. So every time I go bogey free, he donates \$100 for Birdies for Education so was pretty pumped about that coming into 18. Yeah, it was just solid. I didn't hit it my best I'd say in the middle, a

couple squirrely shots, but cleaned up nicely with a good chip-in. Short-range putting was good for the most part and we played really smart. Travis did a great job, especially coming in with that changing wind direction, 17 and 18 playing completely differently, and making me feel really confident with more club into those greens than I've played the last couple days.

Q. Your caddie, Travis, last name?

MAVERICK McNEALY: McAllister.

Q. Take me back to the third hole on Thursday. After you walked off that green, you were 2 over after your first three holes. What has changed from there to get you to this point?

MAVERICK McNEALY: Not to be too graphic, but I would say a settled stomach is what's changed since early Thursday. I woke up really not feeling good. I showed up on the tee I think 12 -- I showed up on the tee as the group in front of us was walking -- I showed up on the driving range as the group in front of us was walking off the tee. It was a rough morning and wasn't feeling too good and hit it in some funny spots off the tee there, but started to feel better as I went. Travis kept yelling at me to eat peanut butter and settle my stomach down a little bit. Honestly, my game just feels really solid. Have to clean up a couple thing here and there, but the pieces are all there and I'm excited for tomorrow.

Q. What are you most looking forward to tomorrow?

MAVERICK McNEALY: I really wanted to play in that final group, that would have been a lot of fun, but I've got a chance to win. I've learned every single time I've been in the mix on the back nine Sunday. Picked up a few things here and there, AT&T, Hilton Head and Colonial, and I'm excited to put those things into practice tomorrow when the heat's on. I'm sure I'll learn something else, but we'll see if I can execute on those.

Q. Eighteen's very challenging. Today you were able to get home in two. Just what did you think overall of the impression -- your impression on 18 with the wind changed?

MAVERICK McNEALY: It was a really tough hole. That was maybe my best drive of the week. I've been driving it awesome this year and that was very solid and got it way down there. The number was -- it was 215 cover on the right side there and 240, 45's a comfortable utility, but with that wind gusting, and Travis talked me into taking a 3-wood. Our game plan was to try to hit it at Jim Nance, just hit it in the press box if we're in between clubs. I'm glad he picked that one for me because a gust came up right as my ball was over that lake and landed soft on that green, rolled back to a good spot. Tough green to putt, but it was definitely good club selection there.