

Q. First of all, just your general take on the round.

RICKIE FOWLER: I'm definitely happy with it. I left some out there the last two days, but also feel like I've taken advantage of some opportunities as well. So definitely happy with the first two days, like where I'm at, and definitely heading in the right direction.

Q. What are you most disappointed in, if there is anything?

RICKIE FOWLER: I've had a couple iron swings where could have definitely got the ball a bit closer. I've missed a few putts, more so just being a little off on read. Hit a lot of good putts outside of that that haven't gone in yet, but also made a couple outside of 10 feet today, so those are always a bonus. All in all, happy with it, but definitely, like I said, we can clean a few things up and get some more this weekend.

Q. Don't take this the wrong way, but is your priority going to the first tee winning or is your priority going to the first tee continuing your improving process?

RICKIE FOWLER: Well, I'm deciding whether I'm going to take it the right way or the wrong way since it's coming from you, Steve, but no, we're in a position to go play a good one tomorrow to have a chance on Sunday. Obviously Keith has played well and there's plenty of guys out there that can still end up potentially past Keith but between where I am and 18 where Keith currently is.

So yes, the goal right now is to go win. I know I can play well on this golf course, I've proven that the first two days, but we're still a ways back so I need to play a solid round of golf tomorrow to give myself a legitimate chance.

Q. In the recent struggles, was there ever a time that you didn't think about winning?

RICKIE FOWLER: I mean, it crosses your mind. Everyone's gone through ups and downs in golf. When you're in those low points, there's times when you wonder like am I ever going to be back in that position. Obviously you believe that you can, but there's those thoughts of like golf is obviously one of the most humbling sports there is and you can never take it for granted. So being in those positions, you know where you want to be, you know you can be there, you've been there before, but it seems like a long uphill battle. You know, like I said, it's definitely been humbling, we've been patient, but it's nice to see some stuff start paying off.

Q. Bear with me on this, Rick. Rory said this years ago and it was fascinating, that

when you're playing great, you feel like you'll never play bad again and when you're playing bad, you almost forget what it was like to feel good. So my question to you is, which distance look greater, when you're down looking up or when you're up looking down?

RICKIE FOWLER: Down looking up is probably the bigger one, it's uphill. I think downhill can happen pretty quickly. Obviously if you look at anyone's career, everyone's up and down, no one's ever held it steady for, you know, a long period of time. Tiger's probably been the most impressive with it as far as when he was good, he was good, and had his little times off. Even I think Jack is probably the one that doesn't get talked about very much, he had his ups and downs. It's there, it's going to happen, it's just -- Lucas and I actually talked about it today. It's not so much how you deal with when you're playing well or bad, it's just more so just kind of staying who you are and not letting it affect you as a person, keep kind of moving forward.

Q. What is different about your swing from, say, two years ago?

RICKIE FOWLER: Right now I feel like I'm in a position where this is probably -- I told Butch over the weekend when I was hitting balls with him, when I worked with him, I probably wasn't as knowledgeable about my swing, but it was simple and I understood what we were trying to do and I knew where we were at and I understood it. I feel like now I'm in a similar position, but I'm much more knowledgeable about the golf swing in general as well as mine, so that's basically where we are. A lot of progress was made, especially over the kind of six, seven weeks that I had off prior to coming to Vegas.

Q. Is there anything fundamentally different about it or is it the same basic principle?

RICKIE FOWLER: A lot of the same basic principles. Really trying to ultimately be in a good impact position, making that consistent, making the club delivery consistent and getting the body moving better and properly throughout the impact. You know, it can look however it wants at the top or wherever, but the main focus being the bottom. I think someone that's probably had the most character to his swing but been one of the best ball-strikers of his career over time is Furyk.

Q. Repeatable?

RICKIE FOWLER: It's not something you would necessarily teach, but he was very impressive when it came to close to the ground and how the club interacted with the ball and the ground. It was very impressive.

Q. Do you think you could even mimic Furyk's swing?

RICKIE FOWLER: That would take some time. There's some that I can -- I have -- I'm a lot better at doing Wolff's swing. I've never tried Furyk's swing. I like my chances of doing Wolff's more so than Furyk's.