



Q. We're here with Phil Mickelson. Congratulations on your first-round play.

Seven birdies on your card, one bogey. Kind of recap your round. Where were you making some hay out there?

PHIL MICKELSON: I really had a lot of fun today. The course is in such pristine shape and to play a golf course where you can play some holes aggressive, there are a few parallel fairways, I like that. It allows me to be a little bit more aggressive and play to some safer areas. And then I'm able to take advantage of some short iron play, so I ended up making some birdies. I also feel like I wasn't as sharp as I have been and that I think there's a really low one in there the way I've been playing. So this was a good, solid start, but I'm excited to get back out here and make another run at it.

Q. Are you happy with the putting?

PHIL MICKELSON: It was okay. I made some good ones on the back nine. I missed some on the front nine, so I've got a little work to do. The greens are so perfect, you feel like you should make every one. The ball rolls so purely on these greens and it's a matter of matching the speed with the line, reading it right and getting that good touch. So I'll have to get a little bit sharper, but I did make a decent number on the back to keep the round going.

Q. That eagle look on 18, was that just a touch too hard?

PHIL MICKELSON: I was just trying to two-putt. Look, I'm just trying to two-putt that. I'm off the fringe, it's 55, 60 feet with a lot of break and so I was happy to get that down in two, and yet it almost went in.

Q. Can you just tell us about the bunker shot on 18?

PHIL MICKELSON: Yeah. So I was looking at it, I had 192 to the front and I had 217 to the hole, which I can fly that 5-iron 215, 220 and I felt like if I could get over the lip, it was the club to get there. So if I just kind of cast the club a little bit, give it a little bit more loft, it should have cleared that lip no problem, but even if it hit the lip, it was at an angle where I felt like the ball would still come out, go forward and roll down the fairway as opposed to staying in the bunker, so I felt the risk was worth it.

I launched it pretty high in the air, so I was surprised it got as far into the green as it did, I thought it would just be around the front, but it worked out well.

Q. Question about the Ryder Cup. What are your recollections this past time being a vice captain? What was that experience?

PHIL MICKELSON: I really enjoyed being vice captain of the Ryder Cup team because I was able to experience the Ryder Cup on an inside-the-rope level without having to deal with the pressure of competing, playing, getting things working with a partner, what holes are you going to hit on, working with a new golf ball, all the variables that come into play that add stress, being accountable to teammates.

I was able to sit in the room with guys that I really enjoy hanging with, Fred Couples, Davis Love, Zach Johnson, Jim Furyk, Steve Stricker. We all sat around and talked, talked pairing strategies. It was really fun to see it in that light.

I didn't know what to expect, but I walked away really enjoying the week.

Q. Everyone's wondering when you will be a Ryder Cup captain. Does this put you on a track for a certain year?

PHIL MICKELSON: I don't know, I don't know, but it was certainly fun to be a part of this one and to see the players. I mean, what a great group of quality young players the United States has right now. They played some great golf and won by the largest margin ever.

Q. To follow up on that, word is you had a lot of fun on the radio that week. Can you give us a boiled down version of what you were saying and how everybody reacted to it?

PHIL MICKELSON: It was a closed mic, so it was only like the vice captains. If I knew that it was going to be public, which it isn't yet, I wouldn't have said some of the things I did, so I don't feel comfortable sharing that right now, but I was exuberant.