
Q. Rickie, how satisfying was that 3-under round?

RICKIE FOWLER: Definitely happy with it. Lot of good stuff out there today, just had a couple squirrely ones when we had the rain come through for a couple holes. Had one on 17 when I missed the fairway there. When the ball gets wet, you lose a little control. Other than that, I feel like I did a good job, drove the ball well. And playing from the fairway with it being lift, clean and place, you can dry the ball off and definitely gives you a lot more control when you're playing in conditions like this.

Q. When it comes down to the rain we had today, what's important to focus upon and why that period of difficulty and trickiness out there?

RICKIE FOWLER: Yeah, the big thing when the rain starts coming in, I mean, just try and hit it forward and somewhat straight. It can get a little tough because off the tee you can get some water on the face and on the ball. Sometimes it will knuckle and go wherever it wants to. So yeah, unfortunately we made a double on No. 11, but other than that, had a lot of good stuff, like I said. We birdied four out of the five par 3s, so that was a good addition to the card.

Q. What's it like playing here, because you were here last year?

RICKIE FOWLER: Yeah, it's great, especially on a day like today, to have the amount of fans that came out and support, it was great. I'm assuming the next few days are going to be even more, but the fans here in Japan are amazing. They love their golf, you can definitely feel their appreciation for all the guys coming over and playing and for everything that ZOZO's done to bring an event to Tokyo.

Q. With some recent changes that you've made for your personnel, how has this been for you going to this new season?

RICKIE FOWLER: Yeah, a lot of good stuff. Being back working with Butch and having Rick on the bag, someone that I've known a long time. Obviously miss Joe, but he's doing a good job. They got the win last week, so really cool to see for him and Tom.

No, I'm very happy with where we're at. Obviously didn't have the week we wanted last week, drove it poorly, but with some of the changes we've made and to have the finish that we did at Napa and kind of seeing a lot of good things, I'm definitely happy about it and excited to be here and off to a good start.

Q. I think you have like M on your ball. Does it have any meaning?

RICKIE FOWLER: M just for my daughter, Maya.

Q. I think your driver shaft is completely black. Does it have any meaning as well?

RICKIE FOWLER: No, it was just a blank that Mitsubishi had. It's an old whiteboard that they used to make. I played the whiteboard Diamana in high school and in college, so they had some blanks still left that were never painted like normal, so yeah, they're just black. I think there's a little bit of like laser etch, but you can't see it unless you're up close.

Q. Speaking about college, that bag tag of yours, there must be a reason behind it?

RICKIE FOWLER: Yeah, obviously I have a great relationship with AJGA and played a lot for a handful of years in junior golf with them and they sent me the bag tag after Maya was born. The AJGA, playing junior golf, everyone has bag tags with their graduation year, so it's kind of cool to have that on there. Obviously with 2040, it's kind of odd to see that year on there, but yeah, that will be her graduation year.

Q. You've not put a club in her hand yet, have you?

RICKIE FOWLER: She's touched or held a club, but she's not walking yet. We'll wait until she's in a spot where she can stand up and we'll get her some plastic ones to play around with.

