

ROUND 3 INTERVIEW
November 12, 2022



TONY FINAU (-15)

Q. Tony, how would you characterize that round out there today?

TONY FINAU: That was a really good round. I think the score doesn't say that, but I think I played better than yesterday. You know, yesterday I shot 62, but today that 68 I thought was pretty impressive for the conditions.

Q. Before your round, would you have taken 2 under knowing the conditions?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, yeah, no doubt. I hit the driver as good as I've ever hit it. Today I hit all 13 fairways, which is something I don't think I've ever done on my career on the PGA TOUR, hit every fairway. So that was super important and I was able to knock a couple birdies in because of that.

Q. What was the main focus going out there before the round? What was the one thing you wanted to concentrate on knowing the conditions?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, I just knew the conditions were going to be tough. You never know what the day's going to bring. You just try and do your best to hit a shot, one shot at a time. It's very cliché for guys that are playing well, but it truly is that way. I will say I think it's easier to play one shot at a time when it's so tough. You know, the conditions, the wind's blowing, you really have to focus and hone in on every shot, every putt, so I think I did a good job of that today.

Q. Other than hitting all the fairways, why do you think this is the best you've hit your driver?

TONY FINAU: I think incrementally throughout my career I've hit it better and last year I saw a lot of good signs of hitting some good drives where I needed to. I don't know, you know, I don't mind hitting a driver into the wind, I have no problem hitting it low. Maybe that's one that I've got to throw in the back pocket and use more often.

Q. You mentioned maybe playing a little bit, just kind of taking it a shot at a time. Do you find yourself maybe being more conservative or more aggressive because you have that lead, just wanting to make sure that maybe kind of just trying to hold onto that?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, you know, I didn't think too much about holding or, you know, gaining on the lead. It's a golf course that can bite you at any second, so I was just trying to hit good golf shot after good golf shot. I knew it would lead to making some good numbers on the



holes, just do a good job of hitting good golf shots, and I made a couple putts when I needed to.

Q. You mentioned the confidence yesterday, how it's pretty much at one of the highest it's ever been for you. Do you think that it's a little bit higher now, do you think that helps you on a day like today when conditions are like this?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, no, doubt. I think you can always take positives from a round. When you're playing well, sleeping on a lead and playing the way I did today, I think of course I'm going to be able to take the good things from today and, you know, but 18 holes to go and I hope to just continue the good play.

Q. How does it feel just walking off after making that par putt?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, that was huge, I thought. I played pretty flawless all day, especially off the tee box. Hit a loose one into the green and I really wanted to get up and down just to have a bogey-free round. On a day like today, I thought that was very good. Yeah, really satisfying to hit a good putt and have it go in.

Q. Having a four-shot lead after kind of the run you've been on since July, let's say, how does it feel? You've got such confidence about winning, you said winning breeds confidence. How do you feel being in this position after the recent success?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, I definitely feel a lot different I would say having the lead this time rather than last year or the year before. Winning breeds confidence, but I think also you have to make it happen and I was able to make it happen a couple weeks in a row last year with the lead, and I'm sitting on another lead, sleeping on another lead tonight. I'm looking forward to the challenge. It's going to be a challenge, it's not easy to win on the PGA TOUR. As easy as some guys make it look, it's just not easy.

I'm looking forward to the challenge, though, tomorrow. Even with a four-shot lead, I know I'm going to have to have my best stuff to win, but that's a challenge that hopefully I'm up for tomorrow.

Q. With your ball-striking ability, do you think that you have an advantage in these conditions if it persists tomorrow, another kind of cold and windy day? Do you feel more confident in that situation than maybe some guys would?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, I've always looked at myself as a good ball-striker and I have no problem hitting the ball low. Those are things that are very good when I play in this Texas wind. I definitely, you know, I don't mind that the wind is blowing.

Q. Do you pay any attention to other scores when you're out there? Ben birdied -- made a really nice birdie putt on his last hole. Could be a big stroke, maybe not, but were you aware of that?



TONY FINAU: Yeah, yeah, I mean, I see the leaderboard. I'm not scared to look at the leaderboards, especially going down the stretch I looked. I know he played a nice round of golf. We'll tee it up for the first time with him tomorrow and have a good Sunday duel.

Q. If you were at home and it was like this, would you tee it up?

TONY FINAU: I've teed it up in a lot worse weather than this, especially in Utah. I mean, this is like a great day, a great winter day if we're in Utah all day.

I've become a little soft moving to Scottsdale when it's 75 every day in the winter. But yeah, I don't know that these days I'd be out practicing and things, but obviously during a tournament I'm prepared for it.

