

## ROCKET MORTGAGE CLASSIC

### ROUND 3 QUICK QUOTE

July 1, 2023



### RICKIE FOWLER ( -20)

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**Q. Best round of the week so far. Just overall how did the day go?**

**RICKIE FOWLER:** Yeah, it was a nice day. You know, even with the little delay in there, sometimes those can be a good thing, bad thing. Feel like we picked up right where we left off and kind of kept going out there. We really -- 10 is the only hole I really got out of position, pulled one left and got a pretty big kick off a tree, but managed to make a good bogey and get out of there. Just continued to swing well, give myself looks. Definitely taking advantage of the par 5s that are on the back. Being able to two-putt for a birdie, those are always nice to have.

**Q. You've obviously been here in this position a lot of times throughout your career, but last two weeks you've been there, so coming in the third week, anything particular you felt like you learned about your game, yourself, just being back in these moments the last two weeks?**

**RICKIE FOWLER:** Yeah, I mean, I felt really good Sunday last week and just didn't get anything going, didn't get anything out of it. Sunday at the U.S. Open, timing got a little off, I wasn't hitting my irons as kind of tight and on my numbers as I had been all week, didn't make much on top of that.

Big thing is just kind of staying in my timing and rhythm and tempo. I'm still going to have to play some solid golf tomorrow because there's plenty of guys right behind me. It's not like I have an eight-shot lead or anything like that where I can just go cruise.

Like I mentioned at the U.S. Open, being through these last few years, I'm not scared to fail. I've dealt with plenty of that and dealt with plenty of bad golf. So just keep trusting swing thoughts and go stick to our game plan and go play some golf.

**Q. After the stretch you've been on, yesterday you said it's as well as you played maybe ever. Do you feel like you need a win to kind of validate all that you've been through?**

**RICKIE FOWLER:** Whether it happens tomorrow or not, it's going to happen here soon. I'm not pressing that, hey, I need to go get it done tomorrow or it means absolutely nothing. I've been playing a lot of really good golf and been putting myself in good positions. This definitely won't be the last, but yeah, it will be fun tomorrow.



It will be interesting to see how the weather cooperates or not. Like I said, I'm going to have to play well regardless, there's plenty of guys right behind me so it's not going to be given to anyone.

**Q. Thinking back to that Sunday a few weeks ago at L.A. Country Club, does your mindset change at all tomorrow on an easier scoring course where you have to stay pretty aggressive because everyone's making birdies?**

**RICKIE FOWLER:** Not necessarily. My big thing which I did a decent job of at L.A. a couple weeks ago, I drove it fairly well. I could have driven it better, but I put myself in position off the tee to go play well there. Mentioned my irons weren't as tight and precise as they had been throughout the week. Some of that was just a little bit off on mechanics and timing.

So tomorrow the big thing is getting the ball in play. Got to be playing from the fairway, I think that's one of the biggest things. I know what I need to do, I know how I need to swing irons and all that. We've been in, like you said, been in this position ample times throughout the year and then being either final group or close to the final group last week or the last two weeks. So yeah, I'm looking forward to it. But like I mentioned, I know it's going to be tough. Someone's going to have a play a really solid round of golf to win.

**Q. Do you allow yourself to visualize walking up 18 in the final round as the winner of a tournament walking in to tap in a putt? Do you allow yourself to let that sink in?**

**RICKIE FOWLER:** Yeah, I'd love to have a few-shot cushion and have, whether it's a putt or ultimately a tap-in to win by a comfortable margin where you're not having to think about coming down the last.

That will be tough to do, but that would be a nice position to be in where you don't have to worry about it much coming down 18.

**Q. And then you touched on No. 10. We didn't see where your ball ended up. Did it end up against the fence?**

**RICKIE FOWLER:** Yeah, I pulled it a little bit, it just kind of went into those trees there and then kicked about 40 yards left up against the fence so I had to take an unplayable.

**Q. You mentioned just how big was making the 5 there, did that kind of give you a little bit of positive vibes moving forward?**

**RICKIE FOWLER:** I mean, making 2 on 11 to follow that was big. Yeah, getting out of there with salvaging a 5 versus missing a putt and making double, that's kind of a big kick on the momentum side. Making bogey, you can deal with that.

Yeah, the bogey, it was a good bogey. To follow it up and make 2 at the next, that kind of is what got things going a little bit.

