

ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTE
July 27, 2023

TONY FINAU (-5)



Q. Tony, just kind of take us through the start, 5 under through four holes, just what happened there to get out to such a good start?

TONY FINAU: Yeah. Well, I didn't miss a shot for the first seven holes really. That was a pretty hot start, it was a nice way to start my title defense this week and kind of calmed my nerves.

It was a crazy day out there. I got off to a blazing start and felt like I couldn't miss a shot, couldn't miss a putt. Then I missed some putts, missed some shots and I ended up finishing pretty nicely at the end. It was a crazy day. As we know, this game can be that way. But I was happy just to post the score that I did for my title defense first round.

Q. You talked about how last year's win kind of jump started the rest of that season into the start of this season. Does a round, 5 under, you're right in the thick of it, kind of maybe lay the groundwork for maybe another one of those as you head to the rest of this season?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, no question. I just want to put myself in contention. I find myself after today right near the top of the leaderboard and want to stay there throughout the week and give myself a chance to win this tournament again. It's a place that I like and it's a golf course that I think fits my style. I just, I want to continue to play well. My focus is getting back out there tomorrow and trying to score and just sticking with it.

Q. How hard is it to sustain a start like that?

TONY FINAU: Yeah. Well, it's incredibly hard. I would have shot 53 I think if I had continued on the round I was going. Not quite the case.

Yeah, it's crazy. This is a crazy game. Again, I think I had a chance to go 7 under through seven, another birdie look on 18, a birdie look on 1, in the middle of the fairway on 2, so I had some opportunities to really take it deep. That's the only part I look at and say we definitely could have done better. I had a nice save for bogey on 7 and birdied 8, so it also could have been worse.

Q. That save on 7 (inaudible) is that one of those shots that kind of keeps momentum flowing in some way, shape or form or allows you to sustain the round and your position in the tournament?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, no question. Up to that point I didn't really miss a shot. Maybe that



second shot on 2 actually, but that one drive could have lost me three shots. It's the game we play. This would have stung, though. I thought that was a huge chip. And then to birdie the next hole to not really lose any ground on those two holes I thought was huge just to keep the momentum going all day.

Q. Did you read the memo sent from Jay Monahan and the Tour and what did you think about it in general?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, I would say the main thing is that the PGA TOUR is taking a stand on the rollback of the golf ball. I think that that's important, setting a precedent moving forward hopefully. You know, my opinion has always been that we should have our own rulebook on the PGA TOUR and we should abide by those. Seeing that they're taking a stand when it comes to rolling the ball back, I thought that that was one of the main things I got from the memo.

Q. What is it about this place (inaudible) comfortable out here?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, I think anytime you come back to a place that you've had some success and won, you definitely have some good vibes coming in.

I think there's a lot of different things, but I grew up putting and playing on bentgrass and that's what we're dealing with this week. There's not a lot of lies that would surprise me because I grew up playing on this stuff. When we start to get into the bermudas and stuff like that, it's the type of grass I didn't grow up on. Bentgrass, I just feel like I'm at home playing in Utah. I would say that's probably a big part of it.

