

ROUND 3 QUICK QUOTE
July 29, 2023

TONY FINAU (-14)



Q. Tony, the putter kind of woke up today, you had 145 feet of putts, including a couple long ones. Has to feel good.

TONY FINAU: Yeah, it feels really good. That back nine I didn't really have anything going after bogeying 9. Made one on 11, 12 so I was able to pick up a couple there, and rolled a nice one in on 17 to finish, so that was nice.

Q. You came in here maybe struggling a little bit having missed a couple cuts in a row. What's been able to click this week for the defending champion?

TONY FINAU: Hitting it a little bit better. The swing feels a little more polished for some reason. Sometimes you just have it and sometimes you don't. This week hitting it a little bit better. Obviously I made some putts, but just more confidence in the direction of the golf ball, so that's always a good feeling.

Q. Everybody here is trying to win this, you've already won it, so you have that big advantage knowing what it takes to win here.

TONY FINAU: Yeah, no doubt. I think I'm going to be in pretty similar position I was in last year, a handful of shots back, maybe more. It's a golf course that can yield some birdies and I'm definitely going to have to make some tomorrow if I'm going to make a run.

Q. Tony, right now it's a five-shot deficit between you and the lead, could be six, but safe to say that type of lead, just given last year, you feel like that's something you can come back from?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, I think so. It's definitely something I can come back from. But he's -- Lee's playing some great golf, there's no question about it. Tomorrow is going to be a challenge for all of us. I know I'm going to have to play a good round no matter what if I'm going to catch him or whoever's playing well tomorrow. That's going to be the goal. I think something around 20 under's probably going to win this golf tournament, so I'm going to have to play a good round tomorrow.

Q. How big or little is a five-shot lead out here on this course?

TONY FINAU: Well, yeah, I mean, obviously last year was pretty crazy just in a few holes how things can change. There's a lot of water in play on the last few holes. I don't know that really any lead, you know, more than four or five is safe.



I find myself again in a similar position as last year. It was just nice to make a run on the back nine today just to give myself a chance. If I'm eight back, that's a whole different feeling than five or six. I was just happy with the way I finished my round today and to creep up and just be a little closer to the lead.

Q. You're 13 under on the back nine this week. What is it about that side of the course that just fits your eye?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, I'm not sure, I can't really put my finger on it. I think obviously I have some good vibes probably from last year continuing right into this year. If there's a side that I want to play well on, it's probably going to be on the back nine. I'm going to have to play good on both the front and the back tomorrow and hopefully we'll continue that good play on the back tomorrow.

