

ROUND 1 QUOTES
February 1, 2024



RICKIE FOWLER (-5)

Q. I know you know people, but how did you find time logistically to play Cypress twice this week?

RICKIE FOWLER: Well, for Cypress, it's not too hard.

So looking at weather and we had planned on coming up here Saturday, so with being the two courses, my plan was to see Spy and see Pebble. So with that, looking at weather, Sunday was -- I think there was some stuff still shut down so the plan was to do Pebble and Spy Monday, Tuesday.

So played Cypress on Sunday and saw that the weather was going to be a bit iffy yesterday and thought that would just be a fun day to go play a round and hit some shots at Cypress versus trying to play Pebble or Spy where we weren't going to necessarily see those conditions.

Q. What was the key to today's round?

RICKIE FOWLER: Well, obviously trying to put some work in the last few weeks. You know, wasn't a great start to the year with Kapalua and in the desert. Ball-striking just hasn't been very good. So I've been testing working on obviously ball-striking, but getting the new driver in play with Cobra as well, which I'm very happy with right now. I think you could see I drove it halfway decent. A lot of good ball-striking stats going into today. So that was one of the biggest things, was getting back to hitting the ball in the middle of the face with a square clubface and that was something that's been a bit of a struggle the last few weeks.

Q. Any work with Butch?

RICKIE FOWLER: Yeah, just over the phone. Yeah, we haven't been able to necessarily cross paths, or I technically -- obviously I could go see him in Vegas, but we do pretty much 90 percent of our work over the phone, sending videos. Just he knows that I know what I need to do and he's there for clarification and to answer questions when needed or give me feedback or hey, it looks good and just give me that extra confidence to move forward. Yeah, like I said, haven't been in person, but been in touch quite a bit.

Q. Jordan Spieth in an interview I think two weeks ago talked about how important it is for the Tour that these events go off well, whatever that means. Good leaderboards, good finishes, whatever the key may be. Do you agree with that, and if so, why?

RICKIE FOWLER: Yes and no. Obviously with anything new, if they start off well and



there's a lot of good storylines and things like that, then that's great.

I also think that this is something, or these are very new and this is a big change. I would say in a way there's probably going to be some sort of tweaking or adjustments as they see how things play out. It's very rare that things are perfect and say it's amazing, we're just going to stay there.

So we'll just have to wait and see. It's great to be back here at Pebble, I know that. Pretty stoked that the weather worked out the way it did today. Hopefully there are some good storylines, a lot of good golf. I know we're all excited to be at Pebble and playing through the weekend.

Q. Earlier this week Collin was talking about how to improve the product for the fans. I'm just curious your thoughts on maybe not what you would do, but what are some things you think now that there's an incentive to improve the product that you think would be good to do for the Tour and golf in general?

RICKIE FOWLER: I definitely like what Collin said, I saw a little bit of that, talking about just showing golf. People want to see golf shots, not necessarily being a little tap-in but guys hitting shots, whether tee balls. Just more golf on TV.

That's not my specialty. I feel like maybe decent in the media world, but like I said, my profession is playing golf. We'll see. I would love to be able to or players be able to give their thoughts on it and hopefully the coverage can get better to where people are getting more of what they want versus there's going to be commercials, there's going to be talking and whatnot, but if there's a way to show golf, that's what people are tuning in for.

Q. I don't know if you answered this already, but your thoughts on the deal that was announced yesterday? And from your perspective, what sounds good to you or what have you thought of the deal?

RICKIE FOWLER: I'm excited to learn more about it. I basically know what you guys know. I've put my trust in the guys like Cantlay and Jordan and Tiger and those that are on the board.

But I've seen firsthand the amount of time and effort that Cantlay and Jordan, Tiger as well. I haven't been around the other guys as much, but it's been very impressive to see what they're doing and everything that they've put into ultimately getting to where we are.

Was that their first choice or ultimate choice or whatever, who knows, but they worked to get to this point. Like I said, I'm going to learn more about it just like you guys are, but I trusted what they were trying to do for everyone and ultimately putting the Tour in a better position.

Q. Rory talked the other day about let's get everybody back together if the Tour comes to a deal with PIF, no penalties for those guys who left. You've got a lot of



friends that live close by that play LIV. Would that be your stance, let's just get the guys back, don't worry about any cost to them?

RICKIE FOWLER: Yeah, it's hard to say. Ultimately for the game of golf and having the best players playing against each other more often, that's ultimately what we're trying to do with signature or elevated events. Right now with the handful of those guys being at LIV, that really only happens when it comes to the majors.

Q. But if a deal's done and LIV is -- you know, either goes away or is somehow included in the picture, do those guys get their membership back?

RICKIE FOWLER: Well, the good thing is the decision's not up to me.

Q. I understand that, just wondering where you stood. I'm putting the screws to you.

RICKIE FOWLER: Probably not in the same spot that Rory -- maybe we started in a similar area, but I think there's been a little rollercoaster ride on his part. I feel like I've kind of maintained middle ground as far as learning about LIV when it was first coming about, and my belief in the Tour and that was always may dream to play the Tour. Always thought it was the best place to play and wanted to see it continue to be that.

We're in a different spot a few years down the road and I feel like when I talked about Cantlay, Jordan, Tiger, those guys, they put a lot of time and effort to put us in a better spot and make sure that the Tour continues to be the best place to play.

Yeah, as far as decisions to go elsewhere and just welcome back, I don't think it's a direct road. I mean, they made decisions and there's -- there has to be something for it. Whether how small or big, that's not up to me.

Yeah, it will be interesting to kind of see how -- I feel like I've been saying it will be interesting to see how the next few months or year or two years go and we're still in that spot, but a little different now than we were a couple years ago.

