

ROUND 1 QUICK QUOTES
February 15, 2024



TIGER WOODS (+1)

Q. Tiger, about today, it was great seeing you. A lot of good, some not so good. How would you describe it?

TIGER WOODS: A lot of good and a lot of indifferent. It was one or the other. I don't know how many pars I had, wasn't many. I was either making birdies or bogeys and just never really got anything consistent going today.

I struggled with the speed of the greens. I couldn't believe how fast they were today even though I made a couple. I ran a bunch by the hole today, it was very stressful. But the golf course is in such perfect shape. Considering the amount of rain they've gotten, to get the golf course this fast is pretty impressive.

Q. The short putts I thought were really good. Talk about your emotions because every hole you get a warm ovation because you haven't been out here for a while. Were you nervous? Can you tell us how you were feeling?

TIGER WOODS: Definitely nervous. I care about how I play and certainly I was feeling the nerves starting out. I got off to a good start birdieing the first and getting right back up on the next two holes and made a couple more birdies. It was one of those days, just never really got anything consistently going and hopefully tomorrow I can clean it up.

Q. Tiger, I'm not going to say the word, but on 18 --

TIGER WOODS: Oh, definitely, I shanked it.

Q. What happened there? Is that still a shock to the system to you when that happens?

TIGER WOODS: Well, my back was spasming the last couple holes and it was locking up. I came down and it didn't move and I presented hosel first and shanked it.

Q. When's the last time you hit a shank, Tiger, that you can remember?

TIGER WOODS: It's been a while, definitely been a while. Other than trying to hit flop shots and other kind of weird shots around the greens, not from the position I was at.

Q. How did the foot and ankle hold up, do you think?

TIGER WOODS: Foot's good. Leg's a little bit sore, things are a little bit sore, but that's to



be expected. That's nothing that we weren't prepared for and we've got some work to do tonight and tomorrow.

Q. You mentioned your putting. Usually when you struggle putting it's the other way around.

TIGER WOODS: Correct.

Q. The greens, you think they're not fast enough?

TIGER WOODS: That is correct.

Q. Did it catch you off guard?

TIGER WOODS: It caught me off guard even the last couple days, I can't believe how fast the greens are here considering how much rain. They got a little more roll-out. Normally they're not like that here. As you know, I putt so much by memory and by feel, so I need to make -- I need to do a better job of making adjustments like that. I just haven't played, so it's a little bit different to make those adjustments on the fly like that.

Q. I haven't heard back spasms mentioned. Have you dealt with them --

TIGER WOODS: Yes.

Q. -- recently during competition rounds?

TIGER WOODS: Not during competition, but at home.

Q. Any idea why?

TIGER WOODS: Because my back's fused.

Q. How about the shoes, how did they feel?

TIGER WOODS: Shoes felt good, felt stable, solid and very comfortable to walk in.

Q. Did you have a favorite moment out there with the guys you were playing with today?

TIGER WOODS: I think the whole day we were chatty all day. It was great to just be out there with those two. We text and call each other all the time, so the fact that we were able to compete and play like that out there, I haven't seen these guys in a long time. I see J.T. a lot at home, but I haven't seen Wood at all. To be out there with him and just share the moment with him, it was a lot of fun.



Q. Tiger, coming into this, where did you think, if anything, you were lacking in prep? What would it have been? Looks like you were getting the ball out there fine, irons good.

TIGER WOODS: I think sharpness, I'm just -- I just haven't -- as I said, making adjustments on the fly like that and the feel for a round and how to make those adjustments, I haven't done that in a while. As I said when we were playing here, I was getting better each and every day, but then again I haven't played in a while again. That's kind of the frustrating part of it.

Q. As we look, Tiger, big picture for the rest of the year and hope to play once a month or something like that, is this something you're going to have to deal with every time you come back or do you think by the middle of the season once a month ballpark is enough to find a kind of rhythm where you --

TIGER WOODS: I don't know, I don't know what that looks like. I'm hoping that's the case, hoping that I play that much. As far as the physical ups and downs, that's just part of my body, that's part of what it is. That's all right, I accept it and accept the challenges.

Q. Knowing that you might be rusty every time you play?

TIGER WOODS: I'm going to be rusty and I have to do a better job at home prepping. We need to do a better job with lifting and treating and continuation of rehab protocols, all those things. I just haven't done it in a while.

Q. You hit a really good shot after the shank. What's going through your head when you're standing over that ball?

TIGER WOODS: I had a small window there, 96 front, 27 total and tried to hit a punch hook 8-iron after I just shanked an 8-iron. I said, all right, the next shot's supposed to be the harder shot and yes, it was because I'm having to hit a little punch hook through a little gap there and I pulled it off, which is good.

Q. When everybody -- you talk about like the prep and getting ready to come out here and stuff. How do you prepare for adrenaline, because that's one thing that is almost impossible --

TIGER WOODS: It is impossible to prepare for. I rely so much on experience and having done this a long time, but still having the adrenaline dump in the system, ball goes further, speed goes up, just the yardages are a little bit different than they are at home. It's just different and that's just a part of playing competitive golf.

