

ROUND 2 QUICK QUOTES
March 29, 2024



TONY FINAU (-9)

Q. Tony, right after your round yesterday, right after you got done with scoring, you went over to the putting green. I think you only beat like five players playing in the field yesterday and you're first strokes gained after the morning wave. What did you work on that kind of helped make that change?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, it's nice to have my coach out here, Boyd Summerhays. He noticed a little setup change that he mentioned that might help. I'd say it definitely helped today.

Q. You've been -- like over the last year you've had to defend I think four tournament titles now. For you personally, is there any extra added pressure? Does it feel any differently when you come back to a place when you're defending instead of just trying to win?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, no doubt, there's always I think that added pressure. It's a place that you've played well, obviously a course that I really like, so there's that added pressure on both fronts. Overall, it's a place that I have great memories coming back to. I get great support here from the fans. It is pressure, but I look forward to coming back and defending any title that I win.

Q. I know the wind really picked up when you guys were playing the front nine there and that's the easier side of the golf course. Did you have any feeling that you would be able to go 6 under in that stretch of six holes there between 3 and 8?

TONY FINAU: No, you just kind of take it a shot at a time, you're not really thinking about score too much in that situation. I knew I was in contention, near the top of the leaderboard with a handful of holes there to go and then the putter just got hot. I hit some nice shots, but it was mostly just draining some long putts from long distance, I chipped in for eagle on 8. Next thing you know, I'm like wow, 8 under, so it's strange how this game works, but you're never thinking ahead too much.

Q. Can you reflect on the last putt? It would have given you a 61.

TONY FINAU: Yeah, I knew what it was for, 61 would have been my lowest on the Tour and the course record here, my lowest on the Tour. I knew I was going to give it a run, I wasn't going to leave it short, I knew that. I hit a good putt and it was barely too low. I thought I hit it hard enough for it to stay on the line that it did.

Q. (No microphone.)



TONY FINAU: Yeah, yeah.

Q. (No microphone.)

TONY FINAU: That's right, it's the game we play, right? Sometimes you never really know what's going to happen, but that's what keeps it fun.

Q. You came here last year (inaudible). Was there something about the course that told you last year that this is a place where you would be this good?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, I think the golf course is long, right now it's playing really long, and with my added distance over the fall just getting stronger and swinging the club a lot faster, I just think it sets up a lot better for me honestly this time of year than it did in the fall.

Q. Which do you think was a better 62 of the two that you've had at this tournament?

TONY FINAU: I think my 62 in the fall was actually better. The golf course can yield some birdies here from the rough because the rough's so much shorter. Yeah, I think my 62 in the fall was a little more impressive just in that you had to hit the fairway. When you're playing bermudagrass, hitting out of bermuda rough is just ridiculous. I think when I shot 62, I hit 14 out of 14 fairways and that was quite impressive. But 62 is good anytime of the year and I'll take the one today.

Q. And the driver shaft change I know was reported earlier this week. What kind of -- when did you decide to -- take your time, no rush at all.

TONY FINAU: That's better, thank you.

Q. So the driver shaft change that was reported this week, when did that decide -- you decide to implement that and what kind of was the, you know, inspiration or rationale to make that change?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, so driving is one of the strengths of my game, maybe the strength of my game and I just haven't been hitting the driver as good as I wanted. Spin numbers have been really high and it's been enough time to where after last week I just, I was just kind of fed up. I was like all right, it's time to make a change with the driver. We looked at shafts and I threw this one in and I'd say it was a nice change.

Q. What's like the process of testing it, like how much time did you spend at the timing the shaft?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, I spent a solid 30, 40 minutes of just hitting drivers with the guys at Ping, who do a great job. We spent a lot of time starting on Monday, we did some on Tuesday, I took it out on the golf course yesterday in the pro-am to make sure that it was good. Yeah, it's definitely a process, but I feel like it's been working.



Q. What are you feeling in that shaft?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, it's a little --

Q. Is it possible to explain to a layman?

TONY FINAU: The shaft's a little bit less tip stiff than my other shaft. I felt like with the way I'm kind of dragging the club a little bit more because of how much speed I have, I think it's been helpful.

Q. (Question about Scottie Scheffler.)

TONY FINAU: Yeah, that's literally what I said on the practice green, shocker, he's leading the tournament. Scottie has been playing some incredible golf and I'm sure will put together another good one today.

Q. You don't want to get ahead of yourself, but obviously you would love to be playing with him in the last group on Sunday?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, it would be a great opportunity for me, no question.

Q. With you shooting the 62 and being the defending champ, what's the mindset heading into moving day tomorrow?

TONY FINAU: Nothing really changes. I've played some nice golf the first couple days and the game's in a good place. Just don't overthink it, just get some rest, be properly prepared, properly rested for the weekend.

Q. With you hitting it a little bit longer this time around, do you have to tweak anything with your approach because of that with the course at all?

TONY FINAU: Yeah, I definitely have been more aggressive off the tee just in some bunkers I'm trying to take out of play. Last year I couldn't take them out of play, I just wasn't swinging fast enough. It's a golf course that allows me to do that and I think it's going to be a nice thing on the weekend.

