



Q. Good start today.

FRED COUPLES: Yeah, I played well. I made a couple good putts but had a lot of other, you know, easy opportunities and made them, so got to 9 under. Then I thought I hit a good lag putt on the last and it didn't break much, so then it went past the hole. It was a hard putt. I didn't hit a very good putt, but that's not where I wanted to leave it. I wanted to leave it to the right of the hole. You're never going to make that putt. Other than that, I putted well today and I hit the ball pretty solid.

Q. Is it a bittersweet kind of feeling when you three-putt the last?

FRED COUPLES: Well, not from there. I wish I had hit a little better iron. I didn't really want to three-putt. But no, you know, I mean if I had lost the tournament by a shot, then it would be bittersweet, but there's 36 more holes and I made a lot of putts today, too.

Q. How's your body and your game feeling coming into this week?

FRED COUPLES: Well, my thumb is back to being cracked, so I've been taping it, which I never do, and I had a good day today with it, it just feels a little awkward, and my body feels very good.

Q. What's been the key? This is one of your best starts in probably three or four years where you got off early in the season like this. Has there been anything you can put your finger on?

FRED COUPLES: Well, I'm driving the ball well and putting well, so those are good things for me no matter when I'm playing. And if I can hit a few good irons, I'm going to have a lot of birdie putts. So three tournaments, this is the first round in the fourth tournament, so I just really want to play more than -- not last year, last year I played three times, but more than normal. I would like to play 12 or 14 tournaments and have for me a semi-full schedule and feel good.

Q. Did it sort of feel like the Wisconsin Invitational at times out there?

FRED COUPLES: It was nice. Those are two of my favorites. Steve I've known a long time and Jerry I haven't really played that many rounds with. But that's what's so refreshing about this tour really is great pairings. And yeah, they're Wisconsin boys and they had a lot of family and friends out there today so it was fun.

Q. Is the NCAA tournament on your agenda for tonight?

FRED COUPLES: Yeah, I'm going to go back, we're going to have a quick dinner and go watch it. I saw where -- I'm not a huge USC fan or not but I saw where they beat SMU. The rest of the games are pretty much -- Rhode Island beat Creighton. Yeah, I'll watch a lot of it, and then the tennis. I live in Palm Springs so that's what's going on and I think they're in the semi-finals tonight.

Q. So what's it going to take to kind of sustain this level of play that you had today over the rust here?

FRED COUPLES: Well, keep putting. I've been putting incredibly well for me, for anyone. You can't three-putt very often, I can tell you that much, or your scores won't be that good. So I've been putting great. I watched Steve play today, he was under not too much stress. I felt like I wasn't, I just made a couple more putts than him.

Q. That putt on 4 seemed to kind of get things going. You held your putter up about halfway through and then pointed at your caddie?

FRED COUPLES: Yeah, that was a good one because last year on that hole I think I made a 9 in the first round. I was laughing because this year, 7 shots better and that's about what I finished, 1 under last year, 8 under today. So it was all on that, whatever hole it is, 4 or 5.