

Q. Well, Fred, 7-under 65 today, another 7 under. Maybe just talk a little bit about your day.

FRED COUPLES: Yeah, I played well. I made a lot of putts as everyone is. I felt much better yesterday and shot the same score, but for me that's kind of irrelevant. I think the last few holes, I hit some good shots but I just didn't feel very good doing it, where yesterday I freewheeled it and I drove it 300 yards and the course seemed easy. Today I just putted very, very well. So hopefully tomorrow I'll feel all right and see what happens.

Q. (Question about No. 17.)

FRED COUPLES: Yeah, I had a really nice yardage and just hit a good shot, a cut shot I like. I've hit that shot well in the past. And then on the 18th hole I hit a great drive there. It's not a very hard hole and I ended up push cutting it and had a much longer second shot and basically flubbed it out of the rough. But I felt pretty good. It just wasn't as easy. My back is touchy all the time, but today it was really not great the back nine, probably from the tee shot on No. 9. But I can play with a mediocre back. It's just when I hit shots like on 18 it kind of ruins the day.

Q. How's that back doing right now?

FRED COUPLES: Well, it's barking, but I got through the round. I mean, the real problem is I played pretty well and I get going and then I have a shot like on 18 and then hit it like that and everything just kind of stops. But at the same time I did pretty well on the back nine. I putted well. I'm going to need to putt well and I just need to putt the ball solid. But on the last hole I hit a bad 3-wood off the tee, I had way too much of a second shot and I just kind of flinched at it. But I think that's going to happen, I'm going to tire out the last few holes. Yesterday I did pretty well. Luckily I birdied the 16 and 17 because I pretty much butchered the 18th.

Q. Well, likely the final round tomorrow potentially with Langer. What do you do between now and then to make sure that back is ready to go?

FRED COUPLES: Well, what he's been working on it every day and it actually feels good, but there comes a time where you're out there, I want to play right, I want to tee off and play. After six or seven hours it just kind of tightens up. It's got really nothing to do with the golf swing. It's a lot of that twisting and turning that I just can't stop doing, I've always done it and that flares up. It's like working overtime. Just physically can't stop doing it. I wish I could because I might last longer, but I feel like I'm loosening myself up and I'm actually popping stuff in my back. He's trying to teach me not to move around so much, just play golf

and walk.

But I did do well today, I'm not complaining at all. It's just I don't know how you can play like that, hit a shot like that on 18. It just doesn't make much sense, but I've been doing it like that a long time. So I think tomorrow will be a fun day. I saw David Toms' name is up there. I think we'll be seeing that name a lot. But Bernhard's the guy you've got to look out for and I have to play much, much better than I did the last few holes, even though I birdied them.