

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW
June 22, 2018



FRED COUPLES (-3)

Q. Fred, great round today. How are you feeling?

FRED COUPLES: You know, I feel pretty good. I bogeyed the last two and you don't want to make too many bogeys out here, but the rest of the holes were pretty good. I had a lot of birdie putts and felt good. I drove it pretty well and I hit my irons okay. You know, like I say, you're going to make birdies out here, but you can't -- I made three bogeys today and obviously the last two holes to lose some ground.

But I enjoyed it. I didn't know what I was going to shoot. At one time being 5 under, I thought that was amazing. And then tomorrow, I feel pretty good so we'll see. I'll go back, rest and come out and try and keep putting it in the fairway.

If we're going to play lift, clean and place maybe one more day, that helps all of us, but I need to hit more fairways so that I can put it on a tee and hit better irons.

Q. Fatigued at all for those last two holes?

FRED COUPLES: No. I've been doing stuff at home. Like I say, when I went to Augusta, I felt really good. I'm not tired. The last hole is a new tee and I got a little bit huge aggressive and I put it in the bunker. I got it on the green about 40 feet, but on that green you can't have 40-footers unless you're going to make a 10-foot par putt.

So no, I hit some good shots, but I feel fine. It's not the easiest course to walk, but I don't feel like I'm -- I can't make it around here and feel good.

Q. So you played the new tee on 18. Did that make it longer?

FRED COUPLES: Yeah, it makes it longer, although we were with the wind, but I tried to go further left. I had a 9-iron out of the bunker, but in a little bit of a not a simple lie, off a sidehill lie. If I had hit it to the right 10 more yards, I would have had a 9- or 8-iron from the middle of the fairway. You know, if I could hit that drive again, I don't think you're going to make bogey from where they were playing, Jay and Colin. But I did, so I'm done and I don't really have much to say. I mean, I played well and it's just a little disappointing. But being 5 under would have been a little bit of a shock, but I don't have to worry about that at the moment.

Q. Being back out there, it was kind of fun to be in the --

FRED COUPLES: Well, I said -- yeah, I enjoy playing. You know, as I get older, I don't

enjoy the traveling, which you have to do to get to a tournament. But once I get there and play like today, I was really -- you know, I had Mario, Steve's wife's brother, caddie for me who did a great job and we had a great time out there.

It's fun to compete, but I'm not competing against Steve Stricker and whoever else is 6, 7, 8 under because I haven't played. I'm really competing against myself to see if I can still hit good shots and play. So I did all right today and I'll see how I do tomorrow.

Q. What was the chemistry with Mario like?

FRED COUPLES: Great. My eyes aren't that good and these greens are very tough, so he read every putt. You know, he knows what -- he's caddied for Steve for several events and he's a very good player, so there was no -- it was good.