

**ROUND 1 INTERVIEW**  
**February 9, 2018**



**FRED FUNK (-6)**

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**Q. So you always seem to be comfortable on this course, you seemed right in your element today. Am I right reading that body language and seeing that score?**

**FRED FUNK:** Yeah, it was a good day. I actually am pretty amazed I was able to play at all. I've been really struggling with my back this week. I tore a hamstring there at the end of the year and been really fighting that, and then the last couple days it's been completely locked up and I haven't been able to swing very hard at all and in a lot of pain. I went three straight days to Eric Menge. He's my go-to guy and he's got an office right down here and he's up in Jupiter as well. He worked his butt off to get me going, I mean digging into that joint that's all locked up, and today it felt a lot better. So I was amazed because I could actually swing today.

I got off to a really good start, I birdied four of the first six holes and just kind of -- I had a really good chance on this side to get some putts that I just burned on the edge, but it was ones that I didn't think I made. It was just ones that I could have made and I kind of knew it right when they took off and they were just on the edge. I had three of them that just burned on the edge and I left two dead-in short. So good as it was, I'm super happy about that. And it could have been a little better but they can always be a little better, but they can also be a little worse if they don't go in. But I'm real pleased, just the fact that I'm out here playing right now with the way I feel. Every day's day to day, so I'm good.

**Q. How difficult is that like psychologically knowing there is something there and it has gotten better today, but not thinking about it while you're playing and just trying to do what Fred Funk does best?**

**FRED FUNK:** Well, I was thinking about it. There's not a moment I don't think about it because I can feel it. Actually, I don't know how you tear a hamstring playing golf, but I did at Thousand Oaks the second-to-last event last year, and they're really hard to rehab and really hard to come back from I found out. And also found out that a hamstring is a very vital thing in the golf swing. I never knew it until you hurt it and then you feel it every swing.

Coming back from that's been slow. But my goal, I really worked hard to get back here at the beginning of this year and I thought I would feel a lot better than I do, but I'm either stupid or a fighter or a fighting stupid person, I don't know what it is, but there's a lot of tournaments I play where I really shouldn't be playing. And today I felt good. It was a good sign that I felt good enough to go out there and at least swing at it and not embarrass myself, because really, the way I felt, I was just playing for last place. Just to be here, and I don't want to just be here, that's no fun.

**Q. Yeah, no, and you live in Jupiter now?**

**FRED FUNK:** Yeah, I moved down from Ponte Vedre after 20-some years.

**Q. So what does that -- what's that like being so close by being able to sort of stay -- I assume you're waking up in your own bed?**

**FRED FUNK:** No, I'm staying at Bernhard's house right down the street.

**Q. What's that like?**

**FRED FUNK:** I stayed with him the last few years and I'm spying on him to see whether there's any secret, and there's no secret. He drinks beer, he eats ice cream, brownies.

**Q. No kale?**

**FRED FUNK:** No. He eats the crap that everybody else eats.

**Q. Now I am mad, now I'm mad. I should start playing golf.**

**FRED FUNK:** He takes care of himself, but he is normal. He's not a robot, except for on the golf course.

**Q. Do you enjoy this area? I know it's a different feel than Jacksonville. What advantages does it give you?**

**FRED FUNK:** Well, the weather in the winter's a lot better. We do have winter and changes in temperature, although I enjoyed that up in Jacksonville. This year it was a bad year, though. Even down here it got cold a few times. I know when it's cold here, it's really cold in Jacksonville. We're just trying a different lifestyle. Jacksonville's really calm and pretty laid back, and Jupiter's actually calm and laid back, that little pocket right there. Not so laid back down here. This is a little more hectic. Anything north of PGA, we're good.