

ROUND 3 INTERVIEW
August 18, 2019



FRED COUPLES (-15)

Q. Fred, great round, bogey free, nine birdies. Can you talk us through your round a bit?

FRED COUPLES: Well, it was a good round. I got off to a really, really good start hitting the ball and, you know, yesterday I kind of butchered the par 5s on the front and today I birdied all three of them. So that got the ball rolling and I played very well. You know, the closer I got to the end, I hit a couple scrappy shots, but, you know, I feel like I'm talented enough to hang in there and keep going. And I made a nice birdie on 16 and I hit a great shot on 17, which even in the pro-am I've hit three horrific shots on 17, finally hit a good one.

Q. Can 15 under hold?

FRED COUPLES: You know, he's 15 now. I think someone told me he just birdied 12. He's got a lot of good holes left. I don't -- I don't know. At best for me it's going to be a playoff and it will be an hour from now, so hopefully I've got to figure out what to do with this range 10 minutes away.

But Doug's brand new out here, he just played well at the British Senior. And it's hard to win, I can tell you that much. I haven't won in a while and I felt a little gun shy out there. I got lucky on a couple holes when I scrambled, but I hit a lot of good shots, so we'll see.

Q. Was there anything in particular about the conditions today that made a low score possible?

FRED COUPLES: Well, it's so hot, so for me it felt good. There was very little wind and the greens are perfect. I did make a few putts, I didn't do anything crazy, and I missed a couple of four- and six-footers, but I made a lot of five- and 10-foot putts. So I'm thrilled to shoot what I did and be in contention.

Q. Did you feel the crowd momentum, too?

FRED COUPLES: Yeah. I haven't played here -- I don't know. I said the other day I won in '91, so I don't know if I ever came back. But it's a great tournament, everyone likes it. I do like the course, so that helps. I grew up in Seattle. As you know, New York and Seattle are a long way away, but we have the same grass, same trees, same everything.

The people were great. There's a lot of support to this event and it's a good event. I don't know why I never came. I'm glad I did this year, though.

Q. You told us all week that you were trying to get your game right heading into Seattle next week. Did you exceed your expectations this weekend?

FRED COUPLES: Well, yeah, by far. I mean, I'm 15 under and I rarely play golf anymore. I still know how to play, and if I get on a roll, I mean, it's not like shooting 9 under. But I stood on the 10th tee yesterday, I was 2 under and I said, you know, I've got to do better than this. Sometimes it goes the other way, and I started making a few birdies and I holed a bunker shot on 16 for eagle and I shot 4 under, which put me at 6 under, which at least felt like I'm competing. And then today was just a great round. I could have easily shot 5 under and I would be in my car driving to the airport right now, but I shot a little bit better, so I get to wait and see what happens.

Q. (Simultaneous questions.)

FRED COUPLES: On 18, I thought it was straight and I didn't hit it very good, but it trickled a little left. It was probably 12, 15 -- 12 feet.

Q. What are you thinking on 14 when that ball goes in the water?

FRED COUPLES: You know, I was hitting my irons so well, even the hole before where I airmailed the green, I don't really know what happened there. It was one of best shots I hit all day, it just went about 10 yards further than I've ever hit a 7-iron. You know, I just was staring at the pin, and when I miss them, they go to the right and that went to the right. Luckily it was a red stake because you can drop it close to the green, so I chipped it, it went in and it was a blessing.