

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW
March 6, 2020



FRED COUPLES (-4)

Q. Always good to end on that note?

FRED COUPLES: Yeah, that was wild. I was trying to hit enough club to get it in the back middle of the green, it's a hard shot, and I kind of mis-hit it a little bit obviously. Then I got up there and I said, you know, I can't chip this. Then it's all that kikuyu grass, whatever the hell it's called. You want to hit it harder, I hit it hard, it went straight, hit the flag and went in, so it was a lot of luck.

But I played okay today. I guess I had two eagles and a birdie on the par 5s and that was it. I bogeyed the par 3. So it wasn't real good on some of the shorter par 4s. I've got to be a little better, maybe get a few more birdie putts on those holes. But again, the par 5s were a blessing, I played them 5 under.

Q. You've been playing a lot to start out compared to some years?

FRED COUPLES: Yeah.

Q. Your body must be allowing you to do some things?

FRED COUPLES: Well, it's going to stop here. My next tournament after this is Augusta and then after that is Houston and that's in May, so yeah, anything on the west coast that's close. I did go to Naples.

But yeah, this is my fourth event and I'm still going to end up with the same amount no matter how many I play in a row. But I love Newport. I live here now and I like the course and it was a good finish to finish 3 under the last four holes.

Q. How difficult did it get out there at times with the wind?

FRED COUPLES: It wasn't real difficult. It was hard to get ball close. Then the more you -- you know, like again watching Goose on 16, he hit a drive 400 yards, he had 85 and the pin was on the front and he spun it off the green and he didn't get up and down. And you're worried about getting it past the hole, so you make little bad boo boos. Instead of doing that, I hit a lot of mediocre wedges and I left them all short instead of getting aggressive and go, wow, that looks great, it hits by the flag and one-hops and you don't get it up and down. But it will be like for everybody. The greens are great, the course is great, I've just got to play some par 4s better.