

ROUND 2 INTERVIEW
June 23, 2018



FRED COUPLES (-8)

Q. Are you surprised to be standing in this spot? You started out a little bit rough, a couple birdies, a couple bogeys, and all of a sudden everything was good?

FRED COUPLES: Well, I'm surprised that someone else isn't 11 or 12 under, but the greens picked up a lot of pace today. I think maybe the scoring was a little easier yesterday because we got to clean the ball in the fairways, but it's not easy out there. I was more surprised yesterday of the scoring.

But I played well today. Yeah, I did get off to a mediocre start after the two birdies and then I played pretty well from there on in.

Q. Are you surprised at yourself the way that you played today after yesterday?

FRED COUPLES: Last year I came here playing a little bit more but not many tournaments. I can only speak for myself. Once I get there and start hitting the ball kind of where I'm looking, then I can work with that because I'm not hitting full hooks and high slices. I'm going to miss shots whether I'm playing every day, but today I probably hit a couple really, really bad shots and I got away with them by birdieing a couple what I think are hard holes. I mean, I'm not shocked, but I'm surprised as how well I'm hitting it.

Q. Did you feel okay this morning after yesterday's round?

FRED COUPLES: Yeah. Last night I was a little sore and then I woke up today and I felt pretty good and I felt good today playing. I actually like bouncing up and getting going instead of playing maybe at 11:30 or 12:00, so I like the earlier tee times. I think tomorrow, I don't know if it's 11:00 is the last time, or is 11:30? So I'll be close to 10:30 or quarter to 11:00, so that's a good time, too.

Q. Since nobody has gone to 11 or 12 under, what are you expecting tomorrow?

FRED COUPLES: Right. Well, I think someone's going to, you know, have a 5 or 6 under most definitely, maybe someone even a little lower and they're going to be the one who's going to win. I think even someone at 6 under has a shot. But Steve can birdie -- where does he stand?

Q. Plus 3 for the day.

FRED COUPLES: Plus 3 for the day. So he can birdie three or four holes coming in and

get to 9 or 10 again and be the guy to beat. Right now he's going to have to have a heck of a round tomorrow. I saw Esteban up there, I don't know what he shot. Did he shoot 5 under, 8 under?

Q. 6 under.

FRED COUPLES: That's probably the low round of the day and that's a darn good score. So tomorrow if someone is 8 under, shoots 6 under, which would be -- I'm at 8 under, then I think there's a shot at winning this. It will be a battle.

Q. It's kind of standard fair for three-round tournaments here that nobody really separates after two days, usually there's a group that's --

FRED COUPLES: Yeah, it's a heck of a tour with a lot of really good players. Every now and again you get shocked that some guy will shoot 65, 64 and have a four-shot lead and you're 10 behind. But then you just go work on your game and you try to figure something out. But normally, if you're playing well, a good player, you always have a shot on the last day even if you're 6 under shooting 8 under. Someone could easily shoot 8 under and you win.

Normally, it's an up front, friendly tour where guys that are in first, second, third or fourth, they're going to be the ones most of the time that win, and most of them are Bernhard Langer and Stricker that win, Jerry Kelly. So it's hard to beat those guys.

Q. Last year in the final of the Schwab Cup you had been off for a while. I watched you walk the final round with Jerry and it was the most effortless 62 I've ever seen. People often wonder how do you do that?

FRED COUPLES: You know, one of the reasons is I don't pay a lot of attention to my swing even when I'm playing every day. Yeah, that was one of the best rounds I've ever played and I did make a few. In the middle of the round I kind of did some other things, but it was an easy 62.

I can tell you I probably had three months off before that. I went there to pick up a pension point, that's the only reason, then played okay and shot a good last round. But it just kind of happens. And I could also go out and shoot 75 tomorrow. This is not the easiest course if you're spraying it, but if I drive it well, one of the things I can do is get it in play and sometimes my putter's not good or my short game. Then I made a nice little up-and-down on the last hole, which gives you a little -- I know it's all weird, but it just depends on who you are and how you're playing.

Q. Plus, after that you knew you would be able to --

FRED COUPLES: And I was off for three more months after Arizona, so it was a fun day.

Q. And forgive me, but what does a pension point cause that inspired you to --

FRED COUPLES: You know, my manager told me it's worth me going to play so I went. And I live in Palm Springs so it was a three-hour drive and I actually had a good time. And Jerry and I, we had fun playing. But something with the Tour that was important, he thought it was important for me to go.