ROUND 1 INTERVIEW August 30, 2021

FRED COUPLES (E)



Q. Six off the lead at this point.

FRED COUPLES: For sure. Just was mediocre. Actually, I hit the ball solid and everything and I just kept making bogeys. Then the back nine, hit the ball kind of the same, obviously a little bit better. I didn't top it like I did on No. 1. It's not the easiest course in the world. I mean, 1 under today, I think I was looking, is like 28th place. If my goal was to just keep playing -- I'm not a guy to say, oh, I needed to get it to even par and do all that stuff -- there goes Ernie making a bomb. But it was -- I really thought I hit a heck of a shot on 18, I just couldn't hit it far enough.

Q. Feel a lot better with that birdie at the end?

FRED COUPLES: Yeah, for sure. I birdied --

Q. The last four?

FRED COUPLES: -- 16. Yeah, it was not very good. It was mediocre golf at best. I went from last to three-quarters of the way to last. It's okay.

Q. The second shot --

FRED COUPLES: No, I actually had an okay lie, not as good as I did yesterday in the pro-am, which is kind of relevant because if you're playing, and I was trying to hit a hot rescue and get it over that bunker, which is 80 yards short of the green and just get it tumbling down onto the green and I just topped -- I don't know, I think it's called a top, either that or it just went into the rough and then I had a worse lie in the --

Q. I never saw it get in the air.

FRED COUPLES: No, I was looking, it was down here. Then I missed the green on 2 and --

Q. Hell of a putt, though.

FRED COUPLES: -- and made a nice little curler. And then I missed the green on 3. I made an unbelievable par on the downhill hole. Nobody would have got that up and down.

Q. Which hole is that?

FRED COUPLES: Fifth hole, straight --

Q. Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah.

FRED COUPLES: -- downhill where I flew it in the back bunker. I turned around and I three-putt No. 7 and all that. But anyway, it was good. I saw some really good golf, mike Weir and I did. Tomorrow --

Q. Do you have a number in mind?

FRED COUPLES: No. I have "I hope to hit the ball well" in mind and let the number go. I mean, I won't be leaving many putts short. Why would I?