

# The 150th Open

Mixed Zone

Sunday, 17 July 2022

**Rory McIlroy**



**Q. Rory, can you sum up how you're feeling after that?**

RORY MCILROY: Disappointed obviously. Yeah, I felt like I didn't do much wrong today, but I didn't do much right either. It's just one of those days where I played a really controlled round of golf. I did what I felt like I needed to just apart from capitalising on the easier holes -- around the turn, 9, 12, 14. If I had made the birdies there from good positions, it probably would have been a different story.

But, look, I got beaten by a better player this week. 20-under par for four rounds of golf around here is really, really impressive playing, especially to go out and shoot 64 today to get it done.

Yeah, I'll rue a few missed sort of putts that slid by. But it's been a good week overall. I can't be too despondent because of how this year's went and this year's going. I'm playing some of the best golf I've played in a long time. So it's just a matter of keep knocking on the door, and eventually one will open.

**Q. How difficult do you think it will be to deal with the disappointment of this one that got away?**

RORY MCILROY: I'll be okay. It's not -- at the end of the day, it's not life or death. I'll have other chances to win the Open Championship and other chances to win majors. It's one that I feel like I let slip away, but there will be other opportunities.

**Q. Do you feel there was anything you might have done differently? Your strategy worked so well for three days.**

RORY MCILROY: I mean, I wish that I had hit it a little closer with some approach shot shots, and I wish I'd have holed a couple more putts. But apart from that, I sort of -- I missed an opportunity on 3. I guess I had sort of half looks on 6 and 9.

The putter just went a little cold today compared to the last three days.

**Q. The way you progressed through the majors this summer, you now look like you've got a handle on dealing with them and dealing with the situation of trying to win one. And the way you played today, it looks like you will win one again.**

RORY MCILROY: I hope so. I've just got to keep putting myself in position, keep putting myself in there. And whenever you put yourself in that shining light, you're going to have to deal with setbacks and deal with failures. Today is one of those times. But I just have to dust myself off and come again and keep working hard and keep believing.

**Q. Did you feel like you were putting well and they're not falling? Did that sort of get in your head a little bit as the round goes on?**

RORY MCILROY: No, I tried to stay as patient as possible, and I kept hitting good putts. I hit a good putt on 13, 14, 15, 16, 17. I was hitting good putts. They just weren't dropping.

It's hard, like, there's a lot of putts today where I couldn't just trust myself to start it inside the hole. I was always starting it on the edge or just outside thinking it was going to move. More times than not, they just sort of stayed there.

**Q. You talked yesterday about wanting to stay in your own bubble today. How did you feel like you did that?**

RORY MCILROY: I think I did a really good job of that. I didn't -- you know, I could see what Viktor was doing alongside me, but I wasn't really concerned about what anyone else was doing. I was just doing my own thing.

It was working well until I needed to respond to what Cam was doing out there. Coming down on 14, I knew that at that point Cam had birdied to go to 19 and I was at 18, so I knew that I needed to respond. I just couldn't find the shots or the putts to do that.

**Q. Rory, did you notice any of the mayhem out there with the fans spilling in behind the ropes and the policemen involved? Did you pick up on any of that?**

RORY MCILROY: Not really. I thought the fans were great today. I thought they were really, really good. Unbelievably supportive to me, wish I could have given them a little more to cheer about. There's a worthy winner right on the 18th green right now.

**Q. Rory, you pushed yourself so hard mentally over the last four days, the last two days particularly. Do you anticipate**



**like an adrenaline comedown now, and how do you go about recovering from that?**

RORY MCILROY: Yeah, there always is after these weeks, especially when you've been in contention and, yeah, all of that sort of is happening. I've got three weeks off. I'm not going to play again until the first playoff event in Memphis.

I've got a bit of time to rest and recover and try to take the positives, learn from the negatives, and move on.

I'm playing well. Again, it's one of the best seasons I've had in a long time. I want to finish the season off well. I want to finish the season off right. There's still some golf to play. Major season is over unfortunately, but I still feel like there's a little bit to play for.

**Q. Do you feel this is your best major performance since '14?**

RORY MCILROY: Yeah, it's up there. I don't know. I go back to the couple U.S. Opens in the last couple years, I feel like I played really well and given myself good chances. I was tied for the lead with nine holes to go at Torrey Pines. I got myself in with a great chance at the PGA and the U.S. Open this year.

Augusta is going to end up being my best finish of the four, but I never really felt like I was in contention there.

I had a putt to -- I thought at the time -- to force a playoff at Carnoustie in 2018. I've been close and I keep knocking on the door. I can't get too down on myself because the game is there. It's just a matter of staying patient.

**Q. Was there a moment when you allowed yourself to think about what it would be like to be standing out there at the end of the day?**

RORY MCILROY: Of course. I'm only human. I'm not a robot. Of course you think about it, and you envision it, and you want to envision it. I was literally, my hotel room is directly opposite the big yellow board on 18 there right of the 1st. And every time I go out, I'm trying to envision McIlroy at the top name on that leaderboard and how did that feel?

At the start of the day, it was at the top, but at the start of tomorrow, it won't be. Of course you have to let yourself -- you've got to let yourself dream. You've got to let yourself think about it and what it would be like, but once I was on the golf course, it was just task at hand and trying to play the best golf I possibly could.

**Q. What are your emotions like on that chip on 18?**

RORY MCILROY: It's a difficult chip. I mean, I thought it was either hole it or nothing really. I wasn't really trying to go for

the T2 with Cameron Young at that point.

Yeah, as soon as I passed the hole, I was like, well, that was -- I gave it a good shot. It wasn't meant to be.

**Q. I guess you'll keep dreaming of seeing your name on that yellow leaderboard on the final day?**

RORY MCILROY: Yeah, I will.

**Q. Rory, given how everybody in this place, fans wanting you to win, how much pressure did you feel today in the last group knowing all that?**

RORY MCILROY: Yeah, not as much as maybe I would have let myself previously feel. I did a really good job this week of sort of really trying to control what I could control. Look, I certainly appreciated the support, and it was incredible to be cheered along all 72 holes, but I didn't let that put me under any more pressure.

I'm trying to do it for me at the end of the day. Yes, it's great to get the support, but the happiest person in the world if I won that Claret Jug would have been me.

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