

Hero Dubai Desert Classic

Friday, 23 January, 2026

Dubai, UAE

Majlis Course at Emirates Golf Club

Rory McIlroy

Press Conference



FastScripts by ASAP Sports

Q. 69, try and talk us through that round.

RORY McILROY: Yeah, I felt like I did pretty well. Conditions, they got trickier as the day went on. I think as we started out there wasn't a ton of wind, but as we got to the back nine, the wind picked up and greens are getting firm, and it's tricky out there. So you have to pick-and-choose your spots when to be aggressive, try and take advantage of the par 5s, and I felt like I did a pretty good job of that.

I hit a lot of good shots today. I hit a lot of good putts that didn't go in. But overall, you know, it was an improvement on yesterday, and at least give myself a half a chance going into the weekend.

Q. The last two holes, sensed a bit of frustration there. Was it with conditions or your game or nothing quite clicking today?

RORY McILROY: I thought the game, like the long game clicked a little bit better today. I hit a lot better iron shots. I think just I had a lot of putts that looked like they were going to go in but didn't.

I feel like I gave myself plenty of opportunities, and I didn't take maybe as many as I wanted to. But I'm sure everyone in the field feels that way, as well. But I have a tee time tomorrow, and hopefully shoot a good one and get right back in contention.

Q. Looks like you'll be a few back of Patrick Reed, but if there is a golf course you would want to catch up on the weekend, is this the one for you?

RORY McILROY: It's up there. I think I came from ten behind a couple years ago to win. I think I'm seven back at the minute.

Yeah, if I go out there tomorrow, maybe in slightly better conditions in the morning and post a low one, then I'll be right in the mix come Sunday.

