

The Ryder Cup

Friday, 29 September, 2023

Rome, Italy

Marco Simone

Team Europe

Matt Fitzpatrick

Rory McIlroy

Quick Quotes Afternoon Four-balls

Q. Mat, Rory, incredible performance, relief, elation, what does this mean for you personally and for Europe?

MATT FITZPATRICK: For me, it's very, very special, and to play with this man, and to get out to the start that we did, yeah, just phenomenal.

Q. A hot start, Rory, as far as Ryder Cup Matches, where does that rank for you, and near the top, I'm sure?

RORY McILROY: Yeah, absolutely amazing. You know, for the first nine holes I was trying to hang on to this man's coattails. I said to him walking up 10, "At least I contributed twice."

And then the boys made a few birdies, you know, on the back nine there and we had to just sort of hang in and hit some good, solid shots down the stretch.

But yeah, I mean, just a great day in front of some amazing home fans, and I said to Fitzy there, you know, for his first point for Europe, I'm happy that I was the one to get it with him. Proud of how him how I played, and we just have to go out and regroup for tomorrow.

Q. Going out in four-balls this afternoon gave you some freedom, didn't it?

MATT FITZPATRICK: Yeah, absolutely, my first four-balls match. I was laughing to Rory, what do we do here. I'm just so excited to be out here, and it's very different playing a home Ryder Cup than away to. Have the fans cheering you on makes a hell of a difference.

Q. First point in Ryder Cup competition, you got off to a hot start, what was working so well for you early on?



MARCO SIMONE
ROME, ITALY

MATT FITZPATRICK: Six one-putts in a row is normally a big help. Yeah, felt really good with the putter on the front nine and just got off to a really hot start.

Q. Why did this pairing work so well for you today?

RORY McILROY: Matt and I have known each other for a long time now. We have played, yeah, this is our third Ryder Cup Team together, and yeah, it's a really comfortable pairing. I've been so lucky with the two partners that I've had with Tommy in the morning and this man, the start that he got off to, I was trying to hang on to his coattails. I contributed a couple of times there around the turn and thankfully we did enough to get it done.

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