

[Back-translation for Chinese text for publication in "Golf Magazine"]

This is your 21st year working at NBC. What is the dumbest thing you've seen a player do?

In 2006 at the US Open, at the Winged Foot course, Phil Mickelson's performance on the 72nd hole was very dumb. That absolutely was the most surreal thing. You just couldn't believe your eyes, that it was happening. Johnny and I both said: "Why in the world is he using a No. 1 wood?" There was no reason. Phil's shot went too far to the left, then he tried to hit it out from the trees with a ridiculous shot, and finally he ended up taking a double bogey and lost the match. So, seeing Phil on the 72nd at Pebble Beach this year, using a 4 iron, a 4 iron on the second stroke, then a wedge to get onto the green, finally winning the match, I felt that he had really matured. He is still very aggressive, but as he has aged, he is wiser. If he had understood this earlier, he would have been able to win more than 40 matches.

At Winged Foot, the post-competition interview must have been difficult to do, but you still insisted on interviewing the second-place finisher.

That time, the interview never happened, and that was also the focus of much discussion. Phil left the 18th green and went through a few glass doors into the scoring area (the pro shop). I didn't have a chance to say anything to him. The NBC producers were yelling at me: "Roger, you have to interview him!" But the scoring area isn't a place I was permitted to enter, so I could only wait at the entrance. I saw Amy consoling him, and he still hadn't come back to himself. At that time, I was getting call after call from the truck because we didn't have much air time left. They all thought I could pull Phil out, but I couldn't. Finally, Phil came out of the scoring area, and said to me very graciously, "Okay, I'll talk to you." But it was too late then. The television broadcast had already concluded, and the credits were already showing on screen.

Do you regret not just running right in and grabbing Phil?

Rules are rules. I couldn't enter the scoring area. And he and his wife Amy were together. The players also aren't willing to give that kind of interview, right? It's one thing interviewing the player who just sunk the last putt and won, but interviewing someone who lost the championship in a tragic manner on the last hole is quite another. You feel like you're interviewing someone whose house just burned down.