



ROUND 1 INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT: TOM PERNICE, JR.
Thursday, October 30, 2014

DAVE SENKO: Thank you, Tom Pernice, for joining us. A 5-under 65 today, looks like the only blemish was at 17, but six birdies.

TOM PERNICE, JR.: Yeah, yeah, I drove the ball in play pretty much most of the day. A couple balls just in the rough, but I set up a lot of opportunities. I had a couple short ones I let get away actually for birdie at 8 and 9. I had a 6-iron in the green at No. 8, the par 5, and just missed the green and pitched up about 10 feet and missed it. Hit a wedge in on 9 about six feet for birdie and misread it. Hit two good putts, misread them both. Made a nice 15-, 20-footer at 2 for birdie. No. 10, hit a 9-iron in there about 15, 18 feet for birdie, made that. No. 11, I hit a 7-iron in there about seven feet for birdie and made it.

14, drove it just in the left rough, caught a little bit of a flyer with a wedge, sand wedge, went by about 40 feet and made it, so there's a bonus. And then 15 I hit a good drive, I went for the green in two, hit it just short on the upslope there in the rough, pitched it up about seven feet and made it for birdie. No. 17, pulled it left of the green, pretty bad spot to be in there. I had a tough chip but I hit a great chip and it went by about seven feet and just pushed it a little bit and made bogey. And then 18, 3-wood off the tee, 7-iron middle of the green and two-putted for birdie.

DAVE SENKO: How far was the two putt, Tom?

TOM PERNICE, JR.: Probably 40 feet, 35 feet.

DAVE SENKO: How much of a factor was the wind today?

TOM PERNICE, JR.: A little bit. Made the downwind holes more so because the greens were pretty firm downwind. Like 16, I hit a 2-iron off the tee and got all the way down to the bottom and I just had a sand wedge from 120 yards downwind and hit a good sand wedge, cut it in there to add some spin to it. It landed six yards short and it went seven yards past, so the downwind holes actually made it pretty tough really to get the ball close to the hole. You know, you're at a little bit of altitude here and the wind has a little less effect on the ball but just enough. Some of the greens were a little firm downwind so had to be careful a little bit.

Q. Any significant difference in your ball striking or play in general between the front nine and the back nine? You had a pretty strong back nine. And was it my imagination or was the wind dying down later in the round?

TOM PERNICE, JR.: Well, it started out east northeast and finished straight out of the south, so it probably died a little bit but it changed. You know, like I said, I played pretty good the front nine really, I missed one green and I missed those two short birdies at 8 and 9 or I shot 3-under. So the back nine I had a little bit of a bonus with the long putt I made at 14, I think, or 13.

You know, for me, I drove the ball straight today, kept it in play, I think that's important. If you do that here, you're going to have some good opportunities. You have two pretty good holes back to back on the front nine where they made par 5s into 4s, so I drove it in the fairway on one and had a good chance for birdie on the other one. I drove it just through the fairway. I had a pretty bad lie and I had to hit a rescue out of there. It came up short but I got it up and down. But to me, driving in the fairway is important.

Q. Last event on this tour this year. How would you assess your year and what will you remember and what would you rather forget about this year?

TOM PERNICE, JR.: Well, I'll probably remember my win at Principal Charity, of course. Chipping in on 17 to get myself in contention there, and then Doug Garwood birdied 17 and 18 and put us in a playoff and then birdied in a playoff, so you always remember when you win.

What do you want to forget? No, I don't know anything I want to forget, per se. I would just like to finish out the year strong really and take some time off and get fired up and ready for next year.

Q. How would you assess your play from beginning to end this year?

TOM PERNICE, JR.: It would be pretty good. Like I said, I think the weakest part was driving it in the fairway. My driving distance increased a little bit this year, which was good. That's what I've worked on and wanted to do. A little more consistency on the driving accuracy, I think, but other than that, pretty good.

Q. Tom, do you like the fact they're going to play this tournament here the next two years rather than alternate between here and Harding Park?

TOM PERNICE, JR.: You know, this is such an unbelievable facility, but I love Harding Park. I'm torn. The golf course at Harding Park to me is spectacular, it's in the top 10 of my all-time favorites. This is a beautiful golf course but not quite in that caliber in terms of top-ranked golf courses. But the facility here and the weather and the hospitality of the membership, pretty hard to beat. It's nice for the Schwab Cup to have a home. I think whatever's happy for PricewaterhouseCoopers and Charles Schwab is most important and the players love coming here as well. It's been great. The reception we've had from the membership and the whole community is very good.

Q. You talked about your driving distance. What else would you work on or would you think about improving? That was a goal you set for this year and you did that. Anything else you want to be thinking about as you go forward?

TOM PERNICE, JR.: I think we all would love to lead the league in putting, I think. Driving and putting are the two most important probably. Yeah, but I don't know if we're selfish or whatever, we would all like to putt better. More consistent but better. You know, those are the two main things I think overall. I've been working with E.J. Pfister on my golf swing and E.A. Pilshert (ph) two guys for the last couple years and it's getting better and better all the time. I think that's what you're trying to do, get better and more consistent all the time and that's been getting there. I had a couple weeks there where I didn't play too good, but that happens. All in all, you know, get up there and stand -- rip it down the middle all the time. That's why Greg Norman was best in his days, he was such a great driver of the golf ball, so something to work on.

DAVE SENKO: Thank you, Tom.

TOM PERNICE, JR.: Thanks.