



**FINAL ROUND INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT: TOM PERNICE, JR.**  
**Sunday, November 2, 2014**

**PHIL STAMBAUGH:** Tom, a fitting way to conclude the 2014 Champions Tour season after all that's happened this year. You win for the second time this year, four-hole playoff, the longest in the 25-year history of this event, congratulations.

**TOM PERNICE, JR.:** Thank you very much.

**PHIL STAMBAUGH:** Maybe just some opening thoughts, you shoot a 67, birdie the last hole, then you and Jay go four holes, I want you to talk about that too, but talk about the day in general first.

**TOM PERNICE, JR.:** Today in general I played really pretty solid, had really good control of the golf ball, drove the ball really well in play most all of the day. Never had any real trouble to speak of. I misclubbed on the par 3 down the hill into the wind on, was that 13 or something, but hit a fantastic chip shot up there about six inches to a foot.

So other than that I really didn't hit any really bad golf shots. Wind got a few and drifted them offline or something, but played pretty well. Then Jay and I got together, we started struggling a little bit in the playoff. We played pretty good the first time around, but after that it was pretty scrappy. I hung in there, short game is part of it as well and my short game held up and carried me through.

**PHIL STAMBAUGH:** Can you maybe talk about you knew what Jay did ahead of you there at 18, talk about that in regulation, and then the second playoff hole I guess was the key.

**TOM PERNICE, JR.:** Yeah, in regulation I was out there, I thought I hit a good drive and it was six inches just in the rough and it wasn't sitting very good. I asked Billy Ray, I said, I saw Jay putting. I said, Is this for eagle or birdie? And he said, This is for birdie. And then I heard the roar and he made it for birdie, so I knew I needed to make birdie.

But I think I had 215 or something the first time around in the rough, so I just took my 3-hybrid and opened the face and just hit a high shot out of there, started just left of the green and cut into the middle and went around front where I wanted to and rolled kind of to the back. Pretty tough position, I had to putt up over a ridge and back down. Hit a pretty good first putt, it got away from me a little more than I thought going back down towards the valley about six feet by and made a great stroke, I played it just on top of the left edge and it broke right in.

**PHIL STAMBAUGH:** How far was the first putt?

**TOM PERNICE, JR.:** It was probably 45 feet. Coming out of the rough it didn't hold very well.

**PHIL STAMBAUGH:** Second playoff hole.

**TOM PERNICE, JR.:** Just hit a bad drive. I had been aiming down the left side and kind of cutting with the wind and came up and out of it and blocked it and so the wind got it, it was up in the desert. It was in a washout area. Luckily I had a shot but I had to go backwards quite a ways because I was going in the direction of the washout. Got it out in the fairway, hit my 3-rescue again and tried to turn it back into the wind and just kind of hit it and the wind got it and luckily it got across the desert, had some grass there.

Jay had some trouble out on the left and went for the green and went over the back bunker so he had a tough up-and-down. So I knew I needed to do something to give myself a chance to make a par and hope Jay didn't make birdie, and hit a really good chip shot, got to place the ball but the grass was still Bermuda, pretty strong going against me. Tried to hit the ball with some spin on it coming off that downhill lie so I just needed to kind of play it on there and let the slope bring it down and it worked out pretty good. I made about a six- or seven- or eight-footer for par. Got a little bit of a read from Jay's putt, it didn't break very much so I played it inside the hole and it stayed right there.

**PHIL STAMBAUGH:** Before we go to questions, you win for the second time this year. What does it mean? This is our top 30 players to beat, the best field we have.

**TOM PERNICE, JR.:** Well, you know, I was just thinking last night, it's such a privilege to be able to be out here, first and foremost, to be out here playing with Freddie Couples and Jay Haas and Kenny Perry and Bernhard Langer and Hale Irwin and Tom Watson. To be able to do that and compete and do what we do at our age is pretty amazing that this is here for us. I just feel it's an honor to be able to be part of it.

I came out here today and was trying to stay relaxed and whatever's meant to be would be and the good Lord willing, had a plan and it worked out.

**Q. Jay was saying that this was kind of the kind of week where he would expect you to excel because you can really grind and there were some tough conditions out there and a lot of great players made runs at you over and over during this week?**

**TOM PERNICE, JR.:** Well, I take pride in my short game, I do say that. I've been

working with James Sieckmann for almost 20 years now and I think he's the best there is in the business. I was lucky enough to play a lot with Seve when I was first on the tour. We played practice rounds, I got to pick his brain, I got to watch him. I got to figure out why he did things and was able to learn a lot. And James the same, my coach, so we've had a great relationship, we had a great upbringing. Seve was huge and key in that, and we just continued to work hard and it's one of my strengths and it held up there in the playoff. I mean, I hit a great chip the second time and hit a good chip on the par 3 17 from left of the green, made a great putt. And not an easy bunker shot at 18 the last time and came out beautifully and made the putt, so short game definitely carried through.

**Q. Was that the best clutch par you've ever made, you know, given the circumstances?**

**TOM PERNICE, JR.:** You know, my first win at Flint I hit it right at the pin and came up in the bunker and I hadn't won before. I hit a bunker shot out about six feet and made it. I hit a two-putt across the valley at Castle Pines PGA, that was a clutch two-putt, too. It's one of them, let's put it that way. It was probably the most adventurous for sure.

**Q. How hard was that playoff given the fact it was getting colder?**

**TOM PERNICE, JR.:** Well, 18's not my favorite, I'm not a huge fan of straight left-to-right winds as it is, so that's not my favorite tee shot in the world to start with. Where the pin was, you really need to try to stay in the right side of the fairway as well. So in regulation I thought I hit a good tee shot and it went just in the rough.

Yeah, it was getting cold, it was tough. I was just trying to hang in there. Jay made a good putt the first time around to keep it going and I kind of figured that he would. I said if anybody's going to make the putt, it's probably going to be Jay. I just expected that to happen, I knew we would be going on.

Same thing on the fourth hole, you know, he's got a 10- or 12-footer for par and I got in there about six or eight feet and I just said he's going to make it so I need to be prepared to play it on the right edge and it rolled right in.

You know, Jay and I have become good friends. I've gone back and played in his charity event in Greenville. I hate for anybody to lose, but he's such a gentleman and means so much to this tour and the way he played this year. Outside Bernhard, he's by far played better than anybody.

**Q. That was a great play you made out of the washout there back to the fairway. Can you give us some insight as to what you were thinking while you were sorting all that out?**

**TOM PERNICE, JR.:** It was a severe downhill lie and it had these sticks behind it too. I said if I got enough speed coming down it will break these sticks that were sticking in the ground and get to this ball. Somehow I had an opening but I had to go back about 20 yards more than I wanted to and it came out okay. I got a lot of angle and got the club up and smacked down behind it and it came out pretty good. I was hoping to hit a little better third shot than that, but it all worked out. It was a terrible drive, lucky we found it and I had a swing.

**Q. So once you found that, it was just a matter-of-fact shot, there wasn't any urgency?**

**TOM PERNICE, JR.:** I needed to make good solid contact and get it back into the fairway to give myself chance to make a par at that point.

**PHIL STAMBAUGH:** Are we all done?

**TOM PERNICE, JR.:** Thank you all. Appreciate y'all being here.