



**Q. Well, tell us about your day. You've got to be really pleased considering you're coming off the surgery?**

**TOM LEHMAN:** Yeah, yeah, kind of played in Naples and didn't have any pain so I was really excited about that week. Actually played a lot better than I scored that week, so it felt like there was a little, you know, some excitement with my game. Practiced the last few weeks. Today I putted the ball really well, I drove the ball really well, and if you do those two things out here, you know, I hit -- I was hitting it pretty long and a lot of short irons, gave myself a lot of good chances and hit a lot of good putts. And the course was there for the taking and a lot of guys are taking.

**Q. How much effort went into the rehab with everything? I know the surgery was in November, if I recall?**

**TOM LEHMAN:** Yeah, I was really diligent with the rehab. I would give myself an A-plus for following the rules and being diligent and committed to it. I did everything the doctor asked. I worked hard, got in the gym and lost a bunch of weight as well and feel a lot stronger. So it was time well spent and I feel really good.

**Q. On the back nine it seemed like you -- I think it was four birdies that you had?**

**TOM LEHMAN:** Yeah, I think I had four birdies on each nine.

**Q. Okay. And especially on those, the two par 5s, which they say, somebody else told me that if you don't get a birdie on those you feel like you lost?**

**TOM LEHMAN:** Yeah, you do, you feel like you're losing ground if you don't make birdies on the par 5s. I actually made two nice birdie putts, about a 15-footer on one and about an eight-footer on the other. You're hoping to make it a bit easier, knock it on in two, have a little more commercial birdie. But hey, a birdie's a birdie. You walk away with that and you feel good.

**Q. Is it a little bit easier when you play close to home like this?**

**TOM LEHMAN:** Well, it was. I played the Wednesday pro-am in the morning, so I went home. I came down on Tuesday, played a practice round, played the pro-am, went home, came back Thursday. So I think even though it was a little bit of driving, it's always nice to be in your own bed and having dinner with your family. Went to a thing at our church on Wednesday night, which was great, so it was nice to not have to miss those.

**Q. And what do you think about the new configuration on this course?**

**TOM LEHMAN:** Well, I think it makes sense. It's a little -- it's a little awkward I think going from 9 way over there to 10, it's quite a haul, but I think overall the flow of the holes work better. I think the finish is a little more dramatic. Just there's some risky shots. The 16th hole with all the grandstands is a little more excitement for the finish, so I think overall it's a good thing.

**Q. And we looked right before you got off, it looks like you're co-leader with Jeff and Freddie?**

**TOM LEHMAN:** Yeah, a few guys, but there's a lot of good scores. There's still guys who are 4, 5, 6 under who still have those last four holes to play. Like you say, there's two par 5s, so the scores are quite low because the weather is quite good, and the course is in quite good shape. Mike Petty, who's the superintendent here, I think he's a genius. I've always thought that. He does a really, really good job and he's got the course looking perfect and playing perfect. I give him a lot of credit for this golf course.

**Q. How much had you played here, obviously with the Tucson event here on Tour...**

**TOM LEHMAN:** I didn't play much in that tournament. They put it opposite the Match Play and I remember when they did that I was -- you know, for one, was extremely disappointed. I really didn't like that decision at all and I remember sitting in that board meeting and I was very -- it's not like me to be real forceful with my opinions, but I was really forceful with that opinion. Like you can't do that to this tournament and you can't do that to the tradition that this tournament has had. Plus, it disappointed me personally being forced to make a decision like that, so I never played here much.