



TOM LEHMAN ( -4)

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**Q. How special was it being a local guy and you helped redesign this place? I mean, you played really, really well.**

**TOM LEHMAN:** Yeah, bogey free today, I was really pleased with that. There's some very, very difficult holes out there, especially on the front nine. The front nine's I think a very tough nine holes of golf when you have this wind blowing. All the hard holes are playing into the wind.

But, you know, I drove the ball extremely well, I hit every fairway today. When you drive the ball well, when you have these greens, these greens have always been receptive to shots from the fairway. They're pretty big and they're not huge amounts of slope and they're soft right now. So that was really the key to the round is putting the ball in the fairway.

**Q. Mark McCumber was bragging about you. He's our analyst in the studio. You only missed three greens as well and you got up and down, so really a special day. How does this set you up now for tomorrow? Did you exceed expectations today?**

**TOM LEHMAN:** There's a lot to be said for being comfortable with a golf course. Even though we've made some changes to it, the greens are the same and I know the greens extremely well. Just it's very long. There's some shots that I had to swing from the heels just to get it to the fairway; on No. 11, for example, and on the last hole, No. 9, 240 with a 3-iron. I hit it as hard as I possibly could to try to get it to the green. So it makes it tough for me, so I'm very pleased with 4 under. I don't necessarily feel like I can do that every day out here, but I think when I play well, I can.

**Q. And every hole you walked up and people were yelling for you. That's neat.**

**TOM LEHMAN:** Well, Minnesotans, they're homers. They like the Joe Mauers of the world and the Kent Hrbeks of the world. They love the homegrown people.

**Q. Tom, in with a 4-under 67. You must be pretty happy with that?**

**TOM LEHMAN:** Very happy, yeah, very happy. I drove the ball extremely well today. I think I hit every fairway. Fairways here have always been wide and we narrowed them up some. They get narrower and narrower as you get out into that 310, 320 territory, which I'm not there. So my fairway is still a little bit wider.

The holes played quite long, but if you drive it in the fairway here, with the way the greens have always been, they're very receptive, they're very playable and welcoming. I would say

they're very welcoming greens. So if you drive in the fairway and your irons are reasonable, you're going to have a lot of chances at birdie.

**Q. Did you have any sort of expectation, and if you did, did you exceed them today?**

**TOM LEHMAN:** No. I kind of felt like the front nine is extremely difficult. The back nine is still very scorable. I've always felt like the back nine on this course was the nine that you could really get after. I still think it's true. It's not overly long.

There are a couple long holes, but there's some real opportunities on the back nine. I think that come Sunday, I think you end up seeing a lot of fireworks with guys making eagles on the par 5s, and you can now make a double on the 18th hole. It used to be you almost couldn't make a bogey on 18, it played so short.

So I kind of like the way the course is playing. You've got to really suck it up and go on the front nine and then the back nine gives you some chances.

**Q. Tom, I know you said the back nine's gettable, but to start out 3 under on the first nine, did that create some good momentum?**

**TOM LEHMAN:** Yeah. The only real hard hole compared to the way we played it over the years on the Champions Tour is that 11th hole. It's so much longer. I had to really hit a good tee shot just to get to the fairway today and end up making a good par. Hit a driver and a 4-iron, and in years past it's been a driver and a sand wedge or a driver and a gap wedge. So it's a way different golf hole.

But the rest of the nine gives you chances. I shot 4 under on the back nine in the pro-am and 3 under today. No guarantees for the future, but I do think the back nine will give up more.

**Q. So hitting it where you designed the fairways wider, is that your secret weapon?**

**TOM LEHMAN:** You know, these guys out here are so good, they're so good and they do everything so well that you want to just make them earn it. I think that's what we tried to do with the redesign is make guys earn a good score. Don't allow bad shots to go unpunished to a certain degree. To me, if the rough is the right length, every shot into the rough is a quarter shot penalty or a third of a shot penalty or maybe even a half a shot penalty over the course of a round, and I think that's the way it's playing.

**Q. Seven under by two guys (inaudible)?**

**TOM LEHMAN:** Not at all. You cannot -- you virtually can't protect par against these guys unless you do something to really kind of trick up the golf course, and especially with soft greens. The greens are soft and you can't protect par.

**Q. You look like you're swinging great. Have you been swinging great?**

**TOM LEHMAN:** Yeah, my game is good. I wonder why I don't play great every day, but that's the nature of golf. You feel like you do a lot of things right, but you don't always get the good score that you want.

Really, it comes down to two things in golf that's never going to change: You drive it well and you putt well, you're probably going to do well. Putting is always the thing that you can play great and not make anything and walk off the course with 1 under, or you can go out there and slap it around and feel like you hit it all over the map and make everything and shoot 6 under. That's just the nature of golf.

**Q. How did you feel about your putting today?**

**TOM LEHMAN:** I've been rolling the ball really well for a while. I changed putters a year ago to this putter that I'm using now, and even though I don't putt great every day, I feel like I putt well most of the time. Then there's days when a lot of putts go in. So I like where my putting is at.

**Q. Tom, you put up a good score and Tim gets a hole-in-one right behind you.**

**TOM LEHMAN:** Yeah, how about that. I told him Lumpy's Lager for the house. A lot of people out here for him to take care of.

My expectations, I think that's the whole thing, it's a thrill for me to join these guys out here. It's a thrill for me to tee it up again with these guys who are so good and who represent the game so well. To have a good first round makes me feel pretty good.

**Q. Is your son on the bag?**

**TOM LEHMAN:** My youngest son, yeah.

**Q. What's his name?**

**TOM LEHMAN:** Sean.

**Q. You probably answered this question several times this week already, but today is the first day the tournament is -- the PGA TOUR is back in Minnesota. Just your feelings on being out there, seeing the crowd today, and also you're celebrating America today with that --**

**TOM LEHMAN:** Yeah, how about that? Yeah, it's a great day for Minnesota golf, for sure. I'm proud of this state and I'm proud of what we put up here for the players to enjoy. Really am quite -- I can't even tell you how pleased I am that it seems like across the board, they're so thankful to Hollis and his crew, the way they've been treated this week.

They seem to really enjoy the golf course, thinking it's a very fair test but not a pushover. So I think if they all walk away from Minneapolis saying they had a great time and had a great experience and loved it and can't wait to come back, I think we've done a lot of things right.