

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW
November 6, 2020



MARK O'MEARA

MARK O'MEARA: I'm actually going to drive back to Vegas on Sunday night and I'm on a Monday morning flight to Atlanta and drive over Tuesday mid morning, get tested, then go to the dinner on Tuesday night. Then Tuesday night straight back to the Atlanta airport and then Wednesday morning, back to Las Vegas, watching the guys on TV.

Q. What are your thoughts about a November Masters? What do you think's going to happen?

MARK O'MEARA: Listen, it's the Masters. The Masters is the Masters, it's going to be great. I think the only difficult thing is part of the Masters experience is the patrons, the fact that we have great patrons at Augusta National. So it's going to be a little bit of a different situation you might say this year because you're not going to hear the roars and the things that transpire at the back nine at Augusta National on Sunday. But these young players are playing well. There's a lot of good players that have an opportunity to go to Augusta and play well and somebody's going to win the green jacket.

Q. Tiger had to wait a little extra long to defend. What are your expectations for him next week?

MARK O'MEARA: Never count Tiger Woods out in anything. I know he hasn't played really the way he wants to the last maybe month and a half, but he's Tiger Woods, it's Augusta National and he seems to play pretty good around there. He's got a lot of experience, I wouldn't count him out.

Q. Do you have a first Masters story or memory you can share with us?

MARK O'MEARA: I actually do. So my first Masters was in 1980. I was the U.S. Amateur champion. I stayed in the Crow's Nest. To be fair, I played with Fuzzy Zoeller the first day as defending champ and I believe I shot the first two days, I can't remember exactly, but I think I shot 80-81, something like that.

And I remember driving down Magnolia Lane that Friday afternoon with my father in the car and my dad looked over at me and he's like, Mark, are you okay? I'm like, Dad, yeah, I'm fine. Why.

He's like, Well, you're upset, you didn't play as well as you'd like.

I looked at my father and I said, Dad, I'll tell you a couple things. I don't know what will every happen in my life, but I do know this for a fact, I got to play Augusta National one time.

Then I came back as a professional and at 41 years of age I managed to win the Masters, so there's hope for everybody out there.

Q. Is there a favorite champions dinner meal?

MARK O'MEARA: Of course. Mine, 1999. We had a big sushi appetizer out front during the cocktail party and we had chicken and steak fajitas. I believe there's a young man named Mr. Woods that kind of copied my dinner that was supposed to happen this past April. One of the big reasons I'm going to go on Tuesday night is I'm looking forward to having the chicken and steak fajitas that Tiger's going to serve.