

TOM HOGE (-4)

Q. Tom, how did it feel out there today?

TOM HOGE: Yeah, it was a good day for me. It was tough, course played really tough with the wind out there. Usually these par 5s are pretty reachable in two and gettable, and completely different in this wind. But I played pretty well, I think I hit all 18 greens so it was a nice day. Other than the putts on 18, it was a pretty solid day for me.

Q. Obviously early, your success, not so much lately, but how did you feel entering this tournament?

TOM HOGE: I felt like I started to play a lot better last week at St. Andrews even though I didn't score quite as well and I would have liked, but I felt like it's starting to turn around here for me and hopefully it's the right time as we head into the Playoffs.

Q. Last year, missed the cut here, but is there something comfortable playing in Minnesota?

TOM HOGE: Yeah, I love coming back here. I've played so much golf around the area, I just feel comfortable being in the area. I think it helps having played in a lot of this wind growing up here and Fargo a few hours away and just to understand how much it will affect some of the shots out there.

Q. Did the wind blow today a little bit more than it has in years past here that you played?

TOM HOGE: Yeah, I would say for sure. Luckily, we've had a similar wind direction the last few practice days, so kind of knew what to expect of some of the holes out there. But holes like 18 into the wind just are tough golf holes, there's not a lot of room for layups out there. Some of those par 5s that have been pretty easy birdie holes in the past are pretty tough to make par on.

Q. Your group had an interesting experience on 18. Obviously you must be comfortable with your strategy, you were on in two there. What is it like to play that hole and do you like it as a closing hole?

TOM HOGE: Yeah, it's exciting. We certainly had the wide range of scores today and anything can happen. Into the wind it's a very demanding hole, there's not a lot of room for the layup. That's the hardest part is the layups almost as hard as taking on that second shot and going for it, but really anything can happen there like we saw today.

Q. How different does this year overall feel for you after that win at Pebble?

TOM HOGE: It's nice. It's a new situation. I don't know where exactly I stand in the FedExCup, but I'm in pretty good shape to make it all the way to East Lake for the first time for the TOUR Championship, and it makes it a little bit easier through some of these stretches where you don't play as well, you don't have to press quite as much. Can kind of just know that what I've worked on in the past will kind of get me out of it and back into the right form.

Q. What was working so well for you early in the season?

TOM HOGE: Yeah, I was just playing solid, kind of like today. I hit a lot of greens today, I gave myself a lot of opportunities and kind of stayed out of trouble. The last few weeks I would be playing well, kind of like today. I was a couple under par through eight holes and I four-putted the ninth hole and things kind of spiraled from there. And luckily today I was able to make birdie right off the bat on 1 when we made the turn, so got the momentum back real fast and kind of turned around there.

Q. How were you able to shake off 18 and like what were the conversations going to 1?

TOM HOGE: Honestly, I kind of laughed that one off. I didn't feel like I hit that bad of a second putt and I got a really big wind gust right in the middle of the putt and it just carried it way down the slope there. Really you can't do much other than laugh that one off because I've never hit a putt like that, that's for sure.

Q. How big a fan club did you have following you today?

TOM HOGE: Yeah, there were some fans out there. It was nice right from the start at 7:30 this morning to see them out there. It was cool to have a few fans cheering for me for once out here.

Q. Family or friends?

TOM HOGE: A few family. Hopefully some more will come down for the weekend, too.