

DAVID TOMS (-15)

Q. David, third win on Champs, it's only the fourth tournament this season. I know it was kind of a wild finish, but just take me through the emotions, how you're feeling right now.

DAVID TOMS: Well, I mean, obviously it's tough. And to have to finish on that 18th hole there, like I said before, I hit it in the water three days in a row there, so we're not the best friends. You know, to make a nice putt there in the end that I had to make, that was the difference. My putter was good all week. It had to be good again today, Robert played really well. He got off to a good start and I was able to just hang in there, hang in there and keep a little distance. It got pretty tight there on that last hole, but for me I guess it's sweet that I was able to make that putt. Steve kind of gave me a little pep talk walking up to the 18th green, said, "Go get that up and down, you deserve it." So that was nice of him, for sure.

Q. I know you were probably locked in, but did you realize that you had an entire pack of the Survivor Walk following you coming up, just the emotions --

DAVID TOMS: You know, maybe if I would have hit the fairway, hit the green, I would have paid attention to what was going on around me, but I was kind of shocked that my ball was in the water. But it was nice to have them come up and have everyone here. This tournament is such a great story to raise awareness for colon cancer. Just can't say the importance of this and how big of a deal it is, especially for people our age, the guys playing the PGA Tour Champions, something we really need to stay on top of.

Q. As an experienced guy when you still know you're in the water, does it get you kind of like, like the nerves overcoming that and try to finish strong?

DAVID TOMS: I just thought it was unfortunate. I thought I hit a good shot, I had no idea it was in the water until we got all the way down there. I went over to Steve's ball, I thought that was my ball. So I didn't really have to think about it that long. By the time I knew it was in the water, I had to hit my next shot. It was unfortunate. I felt good over the tee shot, I wasn't nervous or anything, it was just a hard shot.

Q. Was it the line you wanted?

DAVID TOMS: No. I mean, obviously it was 10 yards right of where I was trying to go. But Robert hit a good shot right in front of me so I knew he had a chance to make birdie. I couldn't really play safe and play way back or anything like that only with a two-shot lead. I was just glad it worked out for me.

Q. So you had the lead going into today. In years past you've had leads and you didn't get it done in the end. What was the difference today?

DAVID TOMS: I was playing well. I kept the ball in the fairway, still made some putts. I stuck with my game plan. I was aggressive when I felt like the club -- that I could be and I felt real good about my club selection, and when I didn't, I kind of played away from it. Even there on 18, I mean, I just wanted to hit it up there somewhere around the green so I could get up and down. That was kind of the game plan all day long is just one step at a time and I was able to do that.

Q. How would you evaluate the front nine today and yesterday and how did that help you?

DAVID TOMS: Really hot. Obviously that was, what, 10 under par in those two front nines. That was of the difference, that's how I separated myself from the rest of the guys. I knew somebody was going to play well today. Only had a two-shot lead and then a lot of guys that were close. I thought Strick might play great today and he was right there, he just never really got it going. I looked at the leaderboard, I saw a couple guys played really well. Doug Barron played well, Mark Hensby played well. I was paying attention to that. So I had to shoot a low round, at least a good round and I was able to do it.

Q. After the ball goes in the water, take us through your mindset after that to finish out the tournament.

DAVID TOMS: I think it was more about let's take our drop, let's get our yardage. My caddie, Scott, said, "Hey, man, we're all right, let's hit a good shot here and we're fine." Fortunately Robert ran his birdie putt right over the edge. He almost made it and I would have had to make mine to tie. But to have a putt to win no matter what it was for, even though it was for bogey, that's all you can really ask for.

Q. David, how does this separate and help you for the rest of the season?

DAVID TOMS: It's always good to win. You get up there, you feel better, it gives you a little bit of confidence, especially early in the year. There are a lot of tournaments I like for the rest of the springtime, places I like to go. We've got some that are close to home that I can drive to, get in the car and go. A lot of things to be excited about. And to be able to get over the hump early in the year, just that shot of confidence, I'm hoping to be able to build on that and keep it going.

Q. When did it become match play between you and Robert?

DAVID TOMS: I guess probably when I three-putted, what was it, 13. Then he was starting to make a couple birdies. He hit his tee ball incredible today, he was 40, 50 yards past me all day long and set himself up for a lot of birdie opportunities. But I just kept plodding along.

I didn't really have it off the tee today. I felt like first two days I drove it pretty long and straight. Today it was more about get it in the fairway, because I felt the putter was good if I could give myself some looks, and that's what I did. That was the game plan, just kind of bump it down there and keep it in front of me and try to stay out of the hazards. I didn't do it very well on the last, but for the most part I did.

Q. What do you like about that Conquistador helmet?

DAVID TOMS: That I have one. You know, it's just kind of one of those things. I always paid attention to it, the funny pictures of the guys putting it on their head. I can tell you that my caddie's got no chance to wear it. I'm not sure he could even get it on the top of his head, so don't have to worry about him wearing it or him trying to take it from me.