

ROUND 3 INTERVIEW
June 11, 2023



MARIO TIZIANI

Q. Mario, just overall thoughts on the tournament and how you finished.

MARIO TIZIANI: Well, great week, super busy week, but I always enjoy coming back. It seems like it gets better every year.

Yeah, I played better every day. Today was -- you know, I made a few more putts today. I wasn't as sharp with other stuff, but that's kind of what the day was going to bring. When I saw the weather was going to be like this, I was happy, I like it when it's like this, a little harder. Yeah, I'm happy. I'll build on it. Like I said, I got better every day and keep plowing ahead.

Q. You won the Wisconsin leg of the Minnesota Senior State Open.

MARIO TIZIANI: Yes, we had a good day. I couldn't believe it got that way, but three Minnesota guys paired together so we had a great day.

Q. What's your history with them and how do you get along when you're playing together?

MARIO TIZIANI: Tim and I have known each other for a long time, we're members at the same course in Arizona and we were in Minnesota, so played with him a bunch.

Tom, I've just gotten to know him more and more over the years. I remember him when I was a little kid, he played for Minnesota when my dad was coaching Wisconsin back in the '70s and '80s and I remember him. He's just a great ambassador for the game and somebody I look up to highly.

Q. As far as going around this course today and seeing Steve's name stay atop that leaderboard, I'm guessing that brought some good feels for you?

MARIO TIZIANI: Yeah, we couldn't see anything on our second nine, so kind of peaking around the corner as we walked up the last hole. Steve's up 3, just do his thing and I think he's going to check a big box here.

Q. What does that mean for the family to see him probably get the monkey off his back?

MARIO TIZIANI: Yeah, it's emotional. You'll see for him it's going to be super emotional. This is I guess our seventh year and it's been a lot of blood, sweat and tears on the

backside. And he's passionate about his game and he's passionate about this event. His hands are full this week and he was able to kind of -- it's taken some practice I think to understand what he needs to do this week to get on top. I'm proud of him, it's great.

Q. He's gotten into this position so many times now over the last couple years. What gets better and better about the way you see him close out tournaments?

MARIO TIZIANI: I think just how he trusts his process and what he's doing. He has the utmost trust in his game and just how he goes about it. There's a lot of guys out here, they don't know if they should fire at flags, not fire at flags, hit driver, hit 3-wood. He's just so sure that his decisions are right. And I think he's not a very commital [sic] guy as he is, he likes to change his mind a lot. As I caddie for him and I'm around him, he's really done a great job on just being very committed to what he's doing, very confident that he's making the right decision.

Q. What are you going to do now? Have you got a box up there?

MARIO TIZIANI: Yeah, we're going to go over there, we're going to go over there right now. Hopefully it's an easy walk up 18. Yeah, he'll be pretty emotional, and he should be.

Q. Do you get a sense from just walking around here how much people want this to happen?

MARIO TIZIANI: Yeah, for sure. Jerry's won it I think twice and Steve's been close and he's had his chances. You know, his name's on the tournament. It would be like Arnie winning Bay Hill sort of, but it's got that feel.