

**PRE-TOURNAMENT PRESS CONFERENCE**  
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**THOMAS LEHMAN**



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**HALEY PETERSON:** Good morning, everyone. We would like to welcome Thomas Lehman to the 3M Open.

Thomas, making your PGA TOUR debut, want to start off with just some opening comments about the excitement starting out this week?

**THOMAS LEHMAN:** Yeah, obviously very excited to make my debut here in Minnesota. Really just blessed to be able to get the exemption this week and I'm really excited just to start tomorrow.

**HALEY PETERSON:** What was kind of the story of how you found out about the sponsor exemption?

**THOMAS LEHMAN:** Yeah, I wrote an email to the director of the tournament and didn't hear back for a while. I know my dad, me and my dad were very involved in the process of trying to get a sponsor exemption, and I was in the middle of playing a practice round in a different tournament about two weeks ago when my dad called me and told me I got in, so I was very excited to hear that news.

**HALEY PETERSON:** How many times have you played this course? Obviously a connection here with your father helping out with the renovations.

**THOMAS LEHMAN:** Yeah, actually this week is my first time playing. I've been out here just watching my dad play when it used to be a Champions Tour event so I've been out here quite a few times, I've never actually played. Love the course.

**HALEY PETERSON:** Have you received some advice from your father?

**THOMAS LEHMAN:** Yeah, yeah, he's been walking around with me in the practice rounds and he's been helping me out just kind of where to hit it, where the tucked pins are and where the misses are on the greens. He's been very helpful.

**HALEY PETERSON:** A little bit more kind of background about yourself, growing up maybe more football, baseball, obviously around golf your whole life. When did you really kind of get into golf?

**THOMAS LEHMAN:** End of my senior year of high school, so when I was 18 was when I started getting really into it. And then kind of just took off that summer going into college, that's kind of when I started to take it seriously.



**Q. Welcome. I know you have some history playing some tournaments up north. How much time do you spend in Minnesota and what is your history in the state?**

**THOMAS LEHMAN:** Well, obviously my dad's from here, so we spend the summers usually, you know, half, a good amount of June, July and August up here playing. I'm from Arizona, obviously about 119 degrees there right now, so not much golf being played here. It's just nice to get up and play golf up here in Minnesota where it's just perfect weather all the time.

**Q. Do you consider these conditions perfect with how hot is' going to be tomorrow?**

**THOMAS LEHMAN:** Yeah, I would say. I would say the course, I would say it's in perfect condition. The greens are rolling fast and just pure. And yeah, with it being hot, everything's going to play really perfect. I'm excited.

**Q. I want to ask about your memories of your dad playing on Tour. I know how important family is to him and bringing you all to the tournaments and stuff. What are your favorite memories of your dad playing on Tour and maybe some events that stick out during his days playing?**

**THOMAS LEHMAN:** I always enjoyed going with him overseas to Scotland and the British Open and Scottish Open. Those were always the memories I'll have of just me and him going over there when I was 9, 10, 11 years old. St. Andrews is just such an amazing -- maybe my favorite place in the world. It was a good father-son time, just me and him over there. That's probably what sticks out most, going over there.

**Q. Obviously no stranger to being around a PGA TOUR event, but now playing in one. What has that difference been like this week just getting on the ground and playing instead of watching?**

**THOMAS LEHMAN:** Yeah, obviously it's a lot different because I've caddied quite a bit and it's obviously a way different gig caddying than playing. A lot more, you know, a little bit of nerves and a lot more focus, a lot more paying attention to the detail. You know, it's just exciting. I'd just say a lot more focus going on this week overall.

**Q. Did you spend much time out here during the years at all when he was remaking the course?**

**THOMAS LEHMAN:** I was out here before they redid the course, but I wasn't really here like during the process of when they were doing it.

**Q. Now you can know who to blame for the architect if you have troubles.**

**THOMAS LEHMAN:** Say it again, sorry?



**Q. Now you know who to blame --**

**THOMAS LEHMAN:** Yeah, yeah, exactly, yeah. Hit it in the bunker, that's the architect's fault.

**Q. Did you caddie for him when he played out here?**

**THOMAS LEHMAN:** No, my brother did. I think that was in 2019, I believe. But I was out here watching.

**Q. (No microphone.)**

**THOMAS LEHMAN:** He'll be here tomorrow, yeah.

**Q. Just how do you kind of level set expectations coming in here? I'm sure nerves, being the first PGA TOUR event. You've obviously played professional events but not at this level. How are you kind of approaching that as you near your Thursday tee time?**

**THOMAS LEHMAN:** Yeah, I think just thinking I've played a million tournaments now and I've been playing pro for a while and I've been playing pretty well. I just need to think of it as another event. I know I can play this course. It's a good setup for me and I just need to keep that in mind that I'm just, it's just one shot at a time, play the course and not -- that's kind of it. I'm sure once the first tee shot's over tomorrow, it will all settle in pretty good.

**Q. With this being your first PGA TOUR tournament, just wondering in your own mind what would be a successful week for you?**

**THOMAS LEHMAN:** You know, I think obviously making it to the weekend would be successful. I think, yeah, I'd say make it to the weekend, just having -- I want to set my expectations high obviously, but I'd say anywhere top 40, 30 would be where I would be very happy with.

**Q. Just curious, other than your dad, who else have you reached out to for advice as you get ready for this week? Anybody that you've met over the years?**

**THOMAS LEHMAN:** This week I've just been talking -- not really advice, but I've just been talking to family and they've just been wishing me good luck, and friends. Just a lot of kind words. I'd say mostly my caddie and my dad, we've just been talking about game plan. Everyone else has just been encouraging this week, a lot of texts and phone calls. Yeah.

**Q. Is your caddie a friend of yours?**

**THOMAS LEHMAN:** He's caddied for my dad quite a bit on the Champions Tour. He



caddies on the Champions Tour full time and I've known him a little bit over the years. Yeah, he's a great guy, me and him get along really well.

**HALEY PETERSON:** We will conclude it there. Thank you for your time and we wish you the best of luck this week.

**THOMAS LEHMAN:** Thank you, appreciate it.

