

DAVID TOMS

Q. David, our defending champion here at the Cologuard Classic by Exact Sciences. Different golf course, but it's got to feel good to come back to a place where you won last year.

DAVID TOMS: Oh, yes, absolutely. I've always enjoyed playing golf in Tucson. It goes all the way back to my rookie year on Tour when I finished third and kind of kept my card here early in the year.

It is tough when you're leaving a golf course I played for 30 years, coming to a new venue, but it's a great spot. I enjoy this golf course. I think it fits my eye pretty well. Still getting used to the greens. You know, being up here on the side of the mountain, there's a lot going on on the greens, so you have to pay attention to slope, you have to pay attention to grain. I'm still getting used to that speed on the greens and the breaks, but if I can get that down, I'll feel pretty good about it.

Q. Just the practice and rounds being out there, what stands out to you when you look at the new course?

DAVID TOMS: You've got to obviously keep it in play. There's a lot of trouble out there off the tee so you have to be accurate. Even though in saying that, it still seems like a second shot golf course with the way the greens are designed, and then obviously around the greens, pretty difficult if you miss 'em.

I played a practice round Tuesday, played the pro-am today, both days the weather was nice and not much wind, so we'll see what the weather does. If it stays nice, I'm sure we'll have to shoot low.

Q. David, with Tucson meaning so much to your golf career key moments, what's it like to hear it from the fans? I mean, last year when you sank the winning putt, this week coming out and getting in some practice around here and then obviously tomorrow you're going to hear the galleries tomorrow, what's that like for you?

DAVID TOMS: Well, it's always nice to have people come out and cheer us on. I'm sure a lot of people here have seen guys like myself and a lot of these other players for 30-plus years out here playing golf in the desert. Sometimes they can get attached to players that they've enjoyed watching.

It's nice for us to be able to be here in a city where Tour golf has been present for a long time. The build-out on the last few holes is going to be nice, I'm sure there will be quite a few

people. I'm not sure how many will get out on the golf course just because it's a tough walk, but up here around the clubhouse I think you'll see quite a few people and hopefully we can put on a show for them.

Q. What do you think of this 15, 16, 17, 18 sort of amphitheater right here and being able to get spectators that you wouldn't be able to get to the far reaches of the golf course in this kind of hub area?

DAVID TOMS: It's a nice finish. You have a couple of par 4s there that you can make some birdies on, but you've got to be accurate off the tee. Got some spots on the greens where they can tuck the pins.

But you have a par-5 in there as well that anything can happen. You might see an eagle or two, although you can see a bogey if you get a bad tee shot.

We'll see. I think it will be a nice finish, a lot can happen coming down the stretch and it should be good for the fans.

Q. In this particular event, what does it mean to know you're also playing in honor of a cancer survivor?

DAVID TOMS: Well, I think it's a great story of this event, it's great for Exact Sciences, our tournament sponsor and everything to bring awareness. I've been tested, I've had two colonoscopies since I started playing this tournament, so it kind of raised that awareness. And Jerry kind of got us all to get ourselves checked out. It's meant a lot to me to be able to have somebody on you. A lot of times you don't think about those things, and with this tournament coming up every year, it's always in the back of your mind to go and make sure you're OK. And then to be able to represent survivors, I think this tournament tells a great story, just adds a little something extra for the players to play for.

Q. So 18th at Omni gave you guys a lot of problems last year. Was there a challenging hole out there at La Paloma?

DAVID TOMS: Well, there's quite a few of them that can, you know, pose some problems if you're not hitting the fairway. I'm not sure which one it will actually be this year, I guess it depends on what the wind does, but I'm certainly glad coming up the last hole if you have a chance to win, I don't have to try to play that 18th hole at Tucson National.

Q. And putting on the helmet, what was that experience like for you last year?

DAVID TOMS: It was great. I had somebody ask me about it today, they said, "Did they make you give the helmet back?" I said, "Yeah, they made me give it back because we changed courses."

No, I was just kidding. I said, "It's sitting on my desk right by my front door when you come

into the study." So it's a unique thing and it's always an attention getter when people come to my house.