

**ROUND 3 QUICK QUOTES**  
**March 31, 2024**

**RETIEF GOOSEN (-13)**



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**Q. We're now joined with the 2024 champion of Galleri Classic, Retief Goosen. Thrilling finish there, can you talk us through it?**

**RETIEF GOOSEN:** Yeah, I wouldn't call it thrilling. I mean, it was more of a disaster for me and Stevie to get to the last hole and the last couple of holes.

Yeah, last year it was my turn, I finished with a few bogeys coming in that probably had a chance to win it and this year it went my way. Somebody else went bogey-bogey for me to win it. That's golf, you just have to take it as it comes.

**Q. How's it feel to get back in the winner's circle?**

**RETIEF GOOSEN:** Yeah, it's been a while, that's for sure: I had a nice two and a half month break early in the year. I put my clubs away, I played two rounds of golf in two months. Just caught up with my family down there in France and walked on the beach every day and just had a good time.

And then coming back was a little rough, getting back in the swing of things, but mentally wise I think I'm in a little better place. I was a little bit more calmer on the golf course, I definitely felt, today especially, I was behind the whole time but I just said, keep hanging in there and start making a few putts. I had my chances here on the back nine to make a few putts, which I didn't. Then I made a nice birdie on 15.

After that, it was tough coming in. I hit a good drive on 18 and the ball luckily finished on the lip there off the bunker, but it was a little bit of -- the ball was sitting up actually too good. I was scared of maybe catching it high on the face and I just completely thinned it. So that was a terrible swing. Then I thought game over and Steven will probably just lay up and wedge it in there close and from there.

I didn't even look when he hit his second shot in there, I didn't realize he hit it in the water until I was up there closer to the green.

**Q. The second shot on 18, what was your distance and what was the club?**

**RETIEF GOOSEN:** I had about 231 flag and it probably could have been a good hard 5 but I was just trying to hit a nice 4. If it goes a little long, it catches the slope maybe and comes back. I just completely thinned it.

**Q. Did you go for it there because you thought you had to or because you --**



**RETIEF GOOSEN:** I just thought now I had to because Stevie was just there a yard in front of me, he was going to go for it. My lie was OK. Like I said, I just had to make good contact, which I didn't.

**Q. You mentioned you were a little surprised he didn't lay up?**

**RETIEF GOOSEN:** Yeah, after I hit in the water I thought he was just going to lay up. He's such a good wedge player. But the great thing about that hole, he probably just felt he could hit a nice solid 5-iron on the green there and it didn't quite come out the way he wanted and went in the water.

**Q. In retrospect, the par putt on 17 was huge for you?**

**RETIEF GOOSEN:** Definitely, yeah. Played with him yesterday and that hole, too, he had a bad lip-out and again today. Yeah, 17, that little four-foot slider or whatever I had there too wasn't an easy putt. Going down 18 I just thought birdie, birdie definitely to have a chance to win or in a playoff. At the end it was a par putt from about 10 feet. I had two bad old holes in between me and the hole, too. The one specifically, I spent a bit of time trying to get it as level as I could. Obviously I did a pretty good job.

**Q. Obviously the end of the day took away the storyline of the weather a little bit, but how was playing through that rain? It was a little harder today than yesterday. Did that complicate things out there for you guys?**

**RETIEF GOOSEN:** Well, I think it was OK, it rained hard but there wasn't any wind which makes it a little easier. Yesterday a few showers, you're walking like this. At least it was just coming straight down. I think it was a little bit easier playing in the wind today -- in the rain because there was no wind. But the course suddenly just played so long, some of the holes become 30, 40 yards longer when it rains like that. It was nice to make that long putt on 10 to creep a little closer. From there on, like I say, I had my chances and didn't really make anything on 11 and 12 and 13. It was nice to get that birdie on 15 and from there I knew 16, 17, 18 is going to be tricky holes, especially 16 and 17. It went my way.

**Q. You say you didn't make anything, but coming down the stretch Gonzalez and Cejka (inaudible) even David Toms, they were making bogeys all over the place.**

**RETIEF GOOSEN:** Yeah, like I said, the last few holes were playing tough. You miss it in the wrong place, it was tough to get it close. Yeah, I mean, I don't know. Yeah, at one stage I think I was four shots off the lead I think at one stage. I was just trying to hang in there and say to myself, you know what, let's just play solid and at least get a top-5 or something. Then suddenly everybody started sort of coming back and that's when, after I made the birdie on 15, I was I have a chance to win this.

**Q. Retief, one, congrats on the win. Two, it was raining pretty hard, it was raining**



**harder than it was yesterday obviously. How did that necessarily impact play, if it did at all?**

**RETIEF GOOSEN:** Yeah, it started raining for us on No. 9 on the second shot. Yeah, the ball started going 20 yards shorter. I thought I hit a good 3-wood that was going to get me to the front edge and I didn't come close. on 10 suddenly game tricky and 11 played really long. So the rain, it just suddenly gets cold, too, when it starts raining like that, are the ball just doesn't fly.

**Q. Third place last year, first place this year.**

**RETIEF GOOSEN:** I like this place. I think I'm going to probably come and buy property over here.

**Q. What exactly is it that seems to fit your eye here?**

**RETIEF GOOSEN:** I don't know. I like the golf course, the golf course is just in unbelievable condition. It's a golf course that you need to hit a lot of good shots off the tee, shape it in different ways. The greens, I like greens that are difficult to putt on, a lot of breaks and stuff like that, I seem to putt better on that.

Also, I stay with a good friend of mine here, Barry Lutz (sp?) here and we have a good time. We sit outside, have a glass of wine and a cigar and it obviously helps. But I'm not going to become a smoker, that's for sure. No, just every year it's been a great time coming here.

