



Q. So I think you've shot -- made one bogey the entire week here so far and yet you're still three shots behind the rookie. What does that tell you about the way Steve's playing or how hard it can be to win out here?

TOM LEHMAN: He's not really a rookie, is he? Obviously he must be doing a lot of things well. 16 under is awfully good for two days of golf. Granted, the weather's perfect and the course is in great shape, but even still, that's a lot of great playing. I'm very happy the way I've played. I could see being maybe a shot behind, but being 3 behind, I saw the board, I was a little bit surprised by that.

Q. Does it change your mentality at all tomorrow, do you feel like you have to go out and make a bunch of birdies?

TOM LEHMAN: No, I don't think it changes. I think I'll play tomorrow the same way I played today, which is there's a few spots out here where you have to be careful. There are a few potential issues where you have to really kind of watch what you're doing. Other than that, if you can drive the ball in the fairway, it's pretty much attack, attack the hole, and that's the way it's been and it will be that way tomorrow.

Q. You've got to be real encouraged with coming off the surgery and everything, the way you've played this week so far?

TOM LEHMAN: I am. Yes, I am. I played the Chubb and I grabbed the wrong putter. I didn't know if I was going to play or not. I went to the Allianz and did some stuff with Allianz and went to Naples and just wanted to see if I'd be able to play and I ended up playing. But I had a putter that I don't normally use and I hit the ball well that week and I putted terrible. So I'm not surprised that I'm hitting the ball reasonably well because I've been hitting it as I've been progressing quite well.

Q. What putter do you have with you now?

TOM LEHMAN: Well, the one I've been using forever and ever and over. You know, sometimes when you have time off you start messing with different putters and clubs and trying things out. I had a putter that kind of felt good just messing around and I stuck it in the bag to putt with and I forgot to take it out and put the right one back in.

Q. When did you have surgery?

TOM LEHMAN: It was early November. I had a torn tendon in my elbow.

Q. Right or left?

TOM LEHMAN: Left elbow.

Q. Is that just a wear-and-tear type of injury or did something happen?

TOM LEHMAN: No, I remember specifically hurting it and then it became just a grind for the remainder of the season. I hurt it in July and just kind of nursed it through the rest of the year, and at the end of the year something happened where it got way worse and then I couldn't play.

Q. How long were you unable to play golf at all after the surgery?

TOM LEHMAN: I didn't touch a club for almost three months.

Q. So what did it feel like when you started hitting the ball again?

TOM LEHMAN: Awkward. The first few shots were pretty ugly. But there's a silver lining in every cloud. I had the chance to really pay attention to some other stuff that I needed to deal with. I needed to -- you always want to have time to get into shape and work hard in the gym and you're always finding a reason why you can't. Now I had no reason, so I was able to spend a lot of time trying to get more flexible, stronger, which at 58 you need to do that to stay competitive with guys like Steve Stricker. Even though they're Champions Tour guys, that eight years makes a big difference.

Q. Was your comeback quicker than normal, because I talked to Corey earlier --

TOM LEHMAN: Well, Corey's was way, way more serious injury. He totally tore his tendon off the elbow. Mine was just a partial. His was a way more significant and serious injury.

Q. Is there any particular highlight for you, any hole or shot?

TOM LEHMAN: Really steady play. I didn't make a bogey, made some nice putts, hit some nice -- I just did a lot of things I would say well. I don't think I did anything great today, but I did a lot of things very well and capitalized when I needed to. That's probably been the story of my week so far. When I've had makeable putts, I've made them.

Q. Tom, how long have you known Steve, how far back does that go?

TOM LEHMAN: Well, probably when he first got on Tour, I guess. I don't know what year he first started the Tour, but I do remember he came out with a bang when he first joined the Tour probably in '93 or '94 or '92, I forget which. That's really when I had heard of him obviously being from Wisconsin, but I had never met him. If all golfers in the world were like Steve Stricker, if all people were, this world would be a much better place. It's really nice to see a great guy who's also a great player. It's easy to cheer for guys like that.