

FINAL ROUND INTERVIEW
June 24, 2018



MIKE SMALL (-10)

Q. What a way to finish, buddy.

MIKE SMALL: I needed that. To have a chance to play in the next event, I had to at least make that and I did so that was rewarding.

Q. So you were looking at the board and you kind of did the math and all that?

MIKE SMALL: I was. I bogeyed 17, I hit a horrible shot into 17. I was leaking oil pretty bad. Then I hit a bad drive on 18 and I just kept grinding and I knew I needed to make birdie. I actually got a pretty good break with the kick on 18 and made the chip.

Q. Coming off your Club Pro missed cut, that doesn't happen every year.

MIKE SMALL: No, no, that was a rarity, but I didn't play well, I didn't deserve to. I made one too many 9s last week. I missed the cut by a shot. I stuck it in the tree and made a 9 and missed the cut by one. But I played well two weeks ago in Iowa and then (indiscernible) Champions Tour event, so I booked into this three-week plan pretty good.

Q. So what, if you do finish top-10, it doesn't get you in next week but it would the week after?

MIKE SMALL: The next event out here, I understand. I'm not sure, I have to look into that. I just know what people are telling me, caddies were telling me that that's when I needed that chip. So if it works out, great. And there's still guys out there that can beat me, there's still guys that can put me out of the top-10.

Q. Right.

MIKE SMALL: And that may happen. It sure feels good to have to make something and make it. It feels good to do that. I wish I could drive it a little better coming in. But I'm going to go back and start my coaching up again this week.

Q. Did you try to qualify for the Senior Open?

MIKE SMALL: I did. I missed. I shot 72 and missed.

Q. Did you give Steve any business about you being later in the tee times than he was today?

MIKE SMALL: No, I don't give Steve any business. We're too good of friends and he's been too good to me over the years. No, I knew he was going to have a good day today, though. I knew he was going to play well.

Q. And for you, what does it mean to play as well as you did in this event? How well have you played in any of these and is this kind of a high watermark?

MIKE SMALL: Yes, this is a big deal to me because it's Steve's tournament and people of Wisconsin are great, being from Illinois. And Steve and I have been best friends for 30 years. It's great to have him get me in the tournament and validate him helping me get in and getting an exemption. That's huge. I finished top-10 in Iowa at Des Moines two weeks ago. It was my first top-10 in a Champions event. So to back up with this, and this was a strong field, it feels good to compete. I just wish I was in the Senior Open, but I didn't play well enough.

Q. Did you talk to Steve last night?

MIKE SMALL: I didn't, no. He's busy. I talked to him before the week started, we visited for a little bit. We keep in touch. He has his life, he's busy, I have mine. Our lives go separate ways a lot of times, but we keep in touch. And he's such a great supporter of our program, me, and he's just a really good friend and a really good dude.

Q. What will you do now, what's next?

MIKE SMALL: I've got to recruit at the Illinois State Junior this week, so I'm going to go recruit for three days.

Q. Are you driving back to --

MIKE SMALL: Yeah.