

TOMMY TOLLES (-8)

Q. So you're tied for the lead.

TOMMY TOLLES: Yes.

Q. How do you feel about that?

TOMMY TOLLES: I played really well on the front side and I had a lot of momentum. Made a few birdie putts there to start the back and then the wheels kind of came off midway through the back nine. I was pretty disappointed there because the conditions were really benign. Greens are pretty firm, but for the most part a lot of wedges, and a lot of pins were fairly accessible. The wind picked up the last few holes. Birdie on 18 was about as good as anybody can ever ask for. That wind just kind of came up out of nowhere.

All in all, very happy with 8 under, but still I haven't played a lot of competitive golf the last 10 years so it was kind of a learning experience.

Q. When you say the wheels came off, you didn't have any bogeys, did you?

TOMMY TOLLES: No, but hit really good tee shots on 14 and 15, or let's see, 13 and 14 -- 13 and -- I don't know, 12 and 13, something like that. Wasn't able to capitalize off of really solid shots. The par 3, just kind of misread it a little bit, you've got to make the majority of those. Perfect conditions. And then on the par 5, I believe that's 12, perfect tee shot there and just really poor layup shot, left myself in kind of a tough position. I'll take 8 under, I'm not complaining about it, but just always tell myself that you can never be happy with what you have, you always have to keep pushing forward.

Q. You mentioned not playing a ton of competitive golf. I'm somewhat familiar with your story. How would you sort of describe your journey to someone who is unfamiliar?

TOMMY TOLLES: Well, it was quite the surprise when we played Qualifying School back in November. Certainly nobody expected the likes of me to qualify. I tried it the year before and I played (inaudible) for the first round and the second round. But this year the first round I saw a lot of improvement from one year just from playing a few tournaments a few more weeks. So I mean there was hope, but still most people are looking at like (inaudible) Tim Petrovic because they have the experience, they've been playing all year, last year, two years, five years, they never really lost the routine. I've been out of the routine for seven or eight years, so still trying to learn some sense of a golf swing, some sense of a putting stroke, trying to familiarize myself with all these golf tournaments all over again. Even at the

age of 51 it's tough being a rookie because everyplace is a new place. Granted, I played here in the mid '90s, but still I've been separated from this course for seven or eight years. You'd think that when I had a putt, I would be like yes, after seven or eight years I know this putt. But it's fun. I've never lost the love for the game. I guess I kind of lost (inaudible). Maybe it's starting to come around, maybe it's not, I don't know. But like I said, it's a learning experience every day, that's all I can ask for.

Q. Do you have a landscaping business?

TOMMY TOLLES: I do, I'm a landscaper back in North Carolina. Bills started coming in after I played golf and I had to find something to do with my days. The game kind of passed me by and then I had some back issues for a while. We all have (inaudible). Those come out a little more often than we would all like. I miss it because it's kind of (inaudible) but then I don't miss it, I would much rather play golf.

Q. Are you still at Flat Rock?

TOMMY TOLLES: Hendersonville, same thing. Been there for almost 30 years or whatever, can't get rid of me.

Q. You finished in the top-5 three times in majors.

TOMMY TOLLES: That was a lifetime ago.

Q. Does that seem like a million years ago?

TOMMY TOLLES: We were all much younger then. It does, yeah. I get reminded when the TPC comes around and Freddie -- the year that Freddie won, '97, reminded about it again when Tiger dominated in '98 or '97. Still, I can vaguely remember those days. I remember hitting the middle of the clubface a lot more then than I do now. I'm hoping maybe some of that comes into my favor eventually because if you hit it off center a lot, it hurts a lot more than it used to.

Q. What's your outlook for the next two days? Well, your outlook for tomorrow?

TOMMY TOLLES: Well, for me it's -- I have to put good swings on it. I'm very comfortable with my putter right now. I've been tinkering with it for the better part of six weeks now. I'm not going to say just because I putted good one day I've got it down, but for the most part I'm happy with the way the ball's finally rolling. To me it's all about hitting it on the clubface and I haven't been doing a lot of that lately. I did a little bit more of it today. I had a four- or five-hole stretch where I was kind of scatterbrained and lost. Like I said, I've still got a long ways to go. I hope for the best, prepare for the worst like everybody else.