

**ROUND 1 INTERVIEW****March 9, 2018****TOM PERNICE, JR. (-7)**

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**Q. Here with Tom Pernice. Tom, 7-under 64, great round, great way to start the tournament. What was working for you today?**

**TOM PERNICE, JR.:** Well, I think you need to be able to convert when you do hit some good shots. The greens here are tricky, they're small and they have a lot of slope on them. I was fortunate enough to have myself in position a few times. Played the par 5s well, either got it up around the greens or wedged it close or two-putted a couple. So if you take advantage of those, that makes it a little bit easier.

The short game, obviously on a day like today you need to hit some good chips and hole some putts.

**Q. Speaking of that short game, you live right over the hill here in California. You're very used to poa annua greens. Everybody has a theory about how they putt poa annua, we've been talking about it quite a bit on the broadcast. Being a guy who's putt pretty much his whole life on poa annua here on the west coast, what is your biggest key to putting poa annua, because obviously it was working today because your stroke is beautiful.**

**TOM PERNICE, JR.:** I just think you have to trust your reads. I mean, you know, you understand what the greens are going to do and where they're going to break, and have the best speed control you have. You just have to accept that they may bounce or they may not. It's no different than playing on bent that's bumpy. Everyone complains about them all the time, but they're just difficult. That's just the way it is, they're a spongy type of grass. But I just think you have to trust what you read and hit the good putts and you'll make your share.

**Q. Weather comes in tomorrow potentially, and obviously the storm, we got the California storm wind coming from the southeast. Did you have to change your game plan today for a little bit on this golf course, and what's your game plan potentially for tomorrow with the weather coming in?**

**TOM PERNICE, JR.:** Well, I think the approaches into the greens, if we do get any rain, the greens will soften up a little bit and become a little bit easier.

But no, I've been spending a lot of time talking to Phil, and Phil really has been encouraging me. We played a lot in the winter. He kind of inspired me and he said just be aggressive and have fun, you'll get one. His influence and his encouragement helped a little bit today.