

TOM WATSON

TOM WATSON: It was a fun day. It was a competition. After about halfway through the round, I was 4 under par after 4 and Jack was 3 under after 4 and Gary made three birdies in a row and he was 3 under after 6. So you look at the scoreboard up there, yeah, actually trying to win the par 3 at age 82, 78 and 68. It was kind of fun to be there. In fact, Gary said to me in the locker room on Thursday after the Wednesday par 3, he said, you know, Tom, that's the first time in a long time that I felt those competitive juices and man, did it feel good.

Q. That's cool. One thing, Mark O'Meara made the walk on the Green Mile here, his last Masters. At any time during the week or even beforehand did he ask an opinion or advice from someone who's done it?

TOM WATSON: Yeah, we talked on the practice range I believe on Tuesday. He was out there hitting balls and he asked me was I still playing. I said no, I'm not, I quit two years ago, and I started telling the reasons why. I can't hit it far enough in the air off the tee to get to hit the right shots into the greens. The 7th hole was my particular bugaboo, I couldn't get the ball to stop on that green. That's a hard enough green as it is. And ended up at 14 and 17, those three holes right there, I said I can't play the course anymore. It was time to give the young people their due, the young men their due. And what a tournament it was, another great Masters.

Q. Well, he was so low key about it, I guess in keeping with his personality?

TOM WATSON: Well, Mark, he's a wonderful player and he's had a great run there. He's played well later on in his age there, he's made the cuts. But again it's just too big a course when you don't hit the ball far enough, reality set in.

Q. Have you seen ever that much backlash or just the negativity over someone winning the Masters? Usually they're just kind of revered as a great player. You know, he got a lot of flack on Twitter and didn't seem to be the most popular winner.

TOM WATSON: I know Patrick and he was on my Ryder Cup in 2014 and I saw him in two particular instances there just show what type of heart and desire and competitive spirit he has to win. I didn't really feel like he was in a bad position being three shots ahead. Everybody else was picking everybody else.

I was disappointed about the way the publicity came out about him, but I tweeted to him, I said just make this a steppingstone. I texted him, just make this a steppingstone for the rest of your career. He said right on.

I'm very happy for him, very happy for Patrick winning. He showed -- I'll tell you, he showed -- he showed the guts that it takes to be a great player. Not just winning the Masters this year but a great player. He showed the guts in the Ryder Cups and you like to see that in a player.

Q. What is more likely to happen in the near future, you winning a tournament here or winning a cutting horse competition?

TOM WATSON: Absolutely winning another golf tournament. The chances aren't real good for that. I'm a rank amateur when it comes to cutting. I was on the back of a cutting horse yesterday morning. I was with my trainer and we were working some cattle and I was flopping all over the place. Did you see that? That came from the saddle horn, that came from the saddle horn, that came from the saddle horn. I was flopping all over that thing. I'm such a rank amateur, but I love to do it and I'm going to get better at it. But I'm about a 22 handicapper when it comes to cutting. Out here on the old guys' tour I'm probably about a 2 or 3 handicap, something like that. Maybe I can find a little lightning in the bottle and do well. I'm playing well right now actually, hitting the ball well and putting well. But honestly, I haven't spent a lot of time practicing to get ready for the tournament. I'm kind of -- I've got some good thoughts in my mind trying to keep it simple, stupid. The KISS method, that's what I'm trying to do.

Q. What's changed the most about this tour since you came on?

TOM WATSON: Not a lot. The tour, when I came on the tour in 1999 in the fall, we play -- again, these guys are good, these old guys are good, they can get it. Look at Bernhard Langer, look at Hale Irwin, before him look at Lee Trevino. Those guys lit it up, these guys can really play. It's competitive and that's why I'm still out here, I enjoy the competition. I like to put my game to the test and compete. And yes, I don't practice as hard as I used to to get ready for these tournaments, but my -- there was a fork in the road and I took it as Yogi Berra said. I'm kind of going off into the horse world right now and I'm really enjoying that, but I'm still a golfer. I don't have any pretense that I'm a cutting horse rider, but I'm trying to learn.