

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW
September 21, 2018



TOM BYRUM (-3)

CHRIS RICHARDS: Tom, solid start today. What was it like playing in front of such great support here in South Dakota?

TOM BYRUM: Yeah, it was a little different. I've got to say there was a little bit more pressure on me to play well and I felt like I handled it pretty good. But as I got into the round, I felt like I left a few out there. Satisfied with the start, but definitely left quite a few, you know, out there. Didn't birdie a couple of the reachable par 5s. Hopefully I can relax a little bit more each day and play a little bit better each day.

CHRIS RICHARDS: You hit the very first tee shot here at the Sanford International presented by Cambria in front of an amazing crowd. What was that like, what was that moment like?

TOM BYRUM: Yeah, it brought back a lot of memories. It was really great to be announced from Onida again, it's been a long time. Yeah, just made me proud to be from the state.

Q. Tom, what was it like -- you were playing with a guy who was really shooting today, what was that like for you? Does it change anything?

TOM BYRUM: Not really. You know, he played well, he just putted so good. He made a couple long putts that normally you're just happy with two-putting and he knocked them in, especially for eagle. So two eagles, you're going to play good.

Like I said, I feel like I left quite a few out there myself. I hit some bad putts that didn't go in, I hit some good putts that didn't go in. So I feel like easily could have been three or four shots better for me, too. It was doable today.

Q. You had several opportunities to play this week, at least a few -- not yesterday, I guess. Did the course play as you expected it would today?

TOM BYRUM: No, I thought the course was great. I was expecting it to be wetter, a lot more water in the fairways, looking for spots to maybe move to and drop. But hats off to this grounds crew, they really whipped it, I feel like, into shape for us to be able to go out there. The only real bad mud ball I had was in the rough, so I laid that up. Usually, you know, after a big rain like this, you're going to get all kinds of mud balls in the fairways and I just -- I think I could almost hit every shot playing it down. I'm glad we didn't, there was a little mud on there, but still it was in great shape.

Q. How much different do you think the course is going to play over the next two

days now that it looks like I'm guessing we're getting clear skies, a little bit more of what we're going to see for the last two days?

TOM BYRUM: Well, it will firm up a bit. I don't know what the wind's supposed to do. If we keep this kind of wind or even half of it, that will keep it as a challenge. I think when it's soft like that, the ball doesn't really run off in the fairways as much and get into the rough. It's easier to hit fairways, it's easier to hit greens. So if we can get it firmed up just a little bit more. You know, there's quite a bit of undulation on these greens, so they won't stay on there quite as well, they'll start trickling towards the sides more and maybe won't hit it quite as good. So as the rounds progress, I think it will get firmer and maybe a little faster and the course should play just a little harder I would think if the wind keeps blowing.

Q. I heard you mention the last time you played this course competitively was something like 1985. Do you remember what that was --

TOM BYRUM: Well, it wasn't even competitively. We came out here -- I played a lot around here in college. I don't even remember. There was a couple holes missing over here by the driving range that I didn't even realize they had changed. No. 8's a total new hole for me and some of these holes on the back nine I don't recognize. I like it, though. I think it's a great change. It's playing well and if we get this to dry up, it should be really good.

Q. Safe to say there were a few more nerves doing this as a professional than maybe when you were in college or high school out here?

TOM BYRUM: No. I would have been more nervous when I was in college, for sure. I handled it a lot better than I would have if I was 25, I know that.

CHRIS RICHARDS: All right. Thanks, Tom.

TOM BYRUM: Thanks.