

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW
October 12, 2018



TOM LEHMAN (-10)

Q. Can you talk about the playability of the course? I think a lot of people thought there was a near flood out here.

TOM LEHMAN: Yeah, it was quite amazing how dry it was. I think earlier in the round there was -- on the front nine there was a little bit of mud on the ball and it really was beneficial to be playing it up. The back nine, I think there was one lie where there was mud on the ball. I probably could have played it down the entire back nine and gotten away with it. It was quite an amazing thing considering all the moisture on the course.

Q. How were the greens?

TOM LEHMAN: You know, the greens were holding, but they weren't a whole lot different than they were in the pro-am. It's really quite remarkable, what a recovery for that golf course.

Q. A lot of good scoring out here today. Gene Sauers is in at 10 under.

TOM LEHMAN: Yeah, yeah, just absolutely perfect day, very little wind, just a perfect temperature, not too hot, not too cold, no humidity. The ball was traveling just fine, greens were true, a little bit slower than they were. That's probably the one thing, the greens were slower today than they were the last few, so I think you could be a little bit more aggressive putting, but everything about today, it was just a great day to play golf.

Q. What is your clubhead speed now compared to 15 years ago?

TOM LEHMAN: I really don't know exactly what it was back then, I didn't really pay much attention. I do know that if, I remember correctly, it was consistently in the 116, 118 type thing. Maybe I could get it higher, I don't know. Now it's -- if I really push it, I could maybe get just barely above 110. It's dropped quite a bit.

Q. That's still not too bad.

TOM LEHMAN: Well, you know, my game is kind of hitting it solid and getting it -- hit a real flat trajectory and let it run some. If I have to carry it 270, I'm probably in trouble, but I can hit it 265 and let it run 30.

Q. We've got the Schwab Cup Playoffs coming up. Do you feel like you're peaking at the right time of year?

TOM LEHMAN: My game has been really good really since I would say after the U.S. Senior Open. I didn't play well there, but I played pretty well at the British Open, played well at the Senior British Open, I've played well ever since. Yeah, I feel like my game is pretty solid.

I switched putters, so I think that's part of it. I lost all my clubs at Carnoustie, they didn't get there until Thursday, so I had gotten a whole new set of clubs including a new putter and the putter really kind of suits me. I've been using it ever since and I think I've been putting better. Combining with some pretty solid ball-striking, I shot more good scores.

Q. A lot of stories out here on the Tour. Gene Sauers went through something that nobody wants to go through.

TOM LEHMAN: Oh, with his illness?

Q. Yeah. I mean, that's --

TOM LEHMAN: I can only imagine.

Q. He never thought he would play again.

TOM LEHMAN: I'm sure there's a time when he didn't even know what was wrong. I don't know all the details of how he was diagnosed, but I'm sure there was a time when they had no idea what the issue was, they only knew that he was not doing well and getting worse. And then not to be able to play possibly; I think golfers, we've been doing it our whole life. You don't really realize how much you love it sometimes until it looks like it could go away and I'm sure that's probably the way he was.