

ROUND 3 INTERVIEW

April 28, 2019

SCOTT HOCH

TOM PERNICE, JR. (- 23)



Q. Twenty-three under, that's a record for here in the Ozarks. Just talk a little bit about the round.

SCOTT HOCH: We started off a little shaky. Not started off. He started off great, and after that we kind of -- we were a little complacent. Then we started hitting good shots and making some putts and we just kept ourselves in there. It started to close up, I noticed it was closing up. I heard a lot of cheers. I finally looked and said, oh, getting a little close. Luckily, made a birdie, he made a birdie, and then we just started separation and it was just fun.

Q. Tom, have you ever started a professional tournament off with an ace?

TOM PERNICE, JR.: No. There's not many tournaments you start off on par 3s to start with. My game plan today, we were 15, I thought if we could get to it 22, we would have a good chance. Not a lot of scoreboards here so it's hard to see, but my goal was we needed to get to 22 as quickly as we could. I thought if we got to 22, we would be okay. So we took a little play out of Tiger's book. When Tiger always gets there in the lead, he figures out what a number is that people won't be able to catch, so I had 22 in my brain all day.

SCOTT HOCH: He was trying to get there in the first two holes.

TOM PERNICE, JR.: Obviously when they go in, it's a little bit lucky, but I did hit a very good shot and was fortunate for it to go in. Followed it up with a birdie on 2, so that was a great start. Finished in pretty good position.

Q. What did you hit there?

TOM PERNICE, JR.: It was a 7-iron.

Q. So when did you have an idea that it had a chance?

TOM PERNICE, JR.: Well, it was just left of the hole when it landed and I knew it was going to feed. It was just a matter of whether it hit the pin and stopped. Otherwise, it was going (inaudible). It was a pretty good shot.

SCOTT HOCH: Very good shot.

Q. They got within one, the field got within one at one point. Were you scoreboard

watching as well?

TOM PERNICE, JR.: When we came through here at 9, Triplett, I think, and Broadhurst had made a run, but they had six more holes that they played in the best ball already, so I figured we had some more holes left, and I still had 22 in my mind. I knew the last three or four holes aren't necessarily easy birdie holes, so I felt if we could keep plugging away and get to 22, we would be okay.

Q. Scott, you're a -- oh, go ahead.

SCOTT HOCH: No, I mean, he didn't give me his strategy beforehand. If he had done it, I wouldn't have worried. No, I didn't know anybody got within one. I know they got within two and then we hear roars and something like that, especially we're all so close here. Just make pars and give us chances for birdie and we'll make some and we did. On this course we tend to go for a little while and might make three out of four or something like that, and that's what it took and that's what we did.

Q. Tom, you're the oldest winner on the Champions Tour. Does it mean anything to you or no?

SCOTT HOCH: It's a team event. It's great that I won, but I don't think you can compare that to an individual win. I mean, the individual winner, especially getting 62, 63 or something like that. I would hope that if I -- the way he inspired me to hit this week and putt for most of the week, I inspired me to play better and have a chance to win an individual tournament later this year.

You know, it's great to have a good partner. I was hitting first and it just freed me up. It just freed me up to hit my shot, try to get it up there in pretty good shape so he could go for it and the plan worked pretty well.

Q. Tom, you're a Missouri guy.

TOM PERNICE, JR.: Yeah, it's always special. A lot of friends and a lot of family came down and supported us all week and cooked meals for us and we had a really enjoyable time. Icing on the cake to really play well and have an opportunity then to close it out today. It's very special.

It's just amazing what Johnny Morris and his people are trying to do here and really put this place on the map. It's easily one of the top-5 most beautiful places in the world and he's doing a great job here. We feel very fortunate that he's partnering with the PGA TOUR Champions and we're able to come to his place.

SCOTT HOCH: All you have to do is turn those cameras around back that way and just look at the beautiful scenery back there also. It's amazing what he's done here. All the new courses and the clubhouse, museum downstairs. I didn't see it this year, but I saw it a

couple years ago. It's phenomenal. A great setup he's got here.

TOM PERNICE, JR.: Great vision.