ROUND 1 INTERVIEW April 26, 2019

ANDY NORTH TOM WATSON (-4)



Q. How did the round go for you guys today?

TOM WATSON: Well, how did the round go today, partner?

ANDY NORTH: We got off to a great start by bogeying the first hole. We weren't great today, but we managed to kind of get it around.

TOM WATSON: You made three 2s in a row on the second nine, knocked it like this and like that and made a putt like that.

Q. How was the course today?

TOM WATSON: Well, it was gettable, it was gettable. The wind's blowing just enough to make it interesting. The 9th hole's playing into the wind and it's always a tough shot into that hole there. You know, 8 and 9, if you can make a 2 on 8 and 9, you're going to lap the field. We didn't do it today, but maybe we can do it on Sunday.

Q. What's your impression of Ozark National, the new course?

ANDY NORTH: It's definitely hard enough. It's really long. The wind's going to blow up there. It's amazing the conditions considering that (inaudible.) But it's going to be a lot of fun to see if you can play it when the wind starts blowing like this up there.

Q. You guys have won this event several times together. Can you speak to the dynamic of your team and how you guys work so well together?

ANDY NORTH: I'll start out. You go find the guy who's the best player in your generation, partner with him. That helps. But we've been friends a long time. It helps to understand that the other guy's trying hard, and if he screws up, that's okay, you know that he's trying. We've had an awful lot of fun.

TOM WATSON: No bogeys, that was our modus operandi for so many years. We didn't make a bogey for --

ANDY NORTH: Six and a half years.

TOM WATSON: We never made a bogey.

ANDY NORTH: Now we can't get through nine without one.

TOM WATSON: Very first hole today we make a bogey.

Q. What's it about this event that makes it special for you guys to play every year?

TOM WATSON: Friendship. It's a unique format. We don't play in this type of format where we play for each other. And the friendship and going out and having a good time competing with each other instead of against each other, that's refreshing and that's what I think makes this tournament so unique. The first Senior Tour event, the legends is the first Senior Tour event. It's been maintained since 1979 or '80?

Q. Yeah, 1979.

TOM WATSON: 1979. I'm glad Johnny Morris has continued the tradition of having us -- having all the legends come back together and play together. This is where, you know, you see people you don't see all year. Dana Quigley, for instance. Dana just lit up the Senior Tour for many years. He's playing. Bruce Fleisher, who lit up the Senior Tour, he's playing.

Then you get the chance to see Jack and Lee and Ben and Gary Player, have a chance to see them play. People want to see that. It's great for TV and it's great for us to be able to sit down and talk shop with them or talk whatever we want with them. But it's a pleasure to walk in that locker room and see faces you haven't seen all year, some legends.

Q. Is there kind of almost a hometown feel or home area feel for you, Tom?

TOM WATSON: Yeah, a little bit. I love the Ozarks, always have. It's special to me. I like to hunt and fish, I grew up doing that. In fact, I got a turkey hunt here in a couple weeks with some of my best friends up around Kansas City, so I'm looking forward to that.

Q. Do you feel like you guys have two more days to make a run and go chase something?

ANDY NORTH: It would just be nice to play well. If we each could play decent and then ham and egg it a little bit. On a week-to-week basis we can't compete with these young kids anymore.

TOM WATSON: These young old kids.

ANDY NORTH: These young kids. So it's just fun to come out and compete a little bit and have some fun and see if I can figure out how to play the new golf course.

Q. Tom, what's the biggest fish you ever caught?

TOM WATSON: The biggest fish I ever caught was a 47-inch Northern.

Q. Where was that?

TOM WATSON: That was up at Lake Wollaston up in Canada.

Q. With Branson being kind of a new hotspot for golf, do you think that it's really going to bring a new face of golf to the Senior Tour as well having these new courses?

ANDY NORTH: It's really great for the area. The fact that you've got a destination in Missouri that's fantastic, you're going to get people coming in from all over trying to get a chance to watch it here. The gentleman who's caddying for me is getting emails from friends in Phoenix that are watching us play. People are understanding that this is a neat place to come, and Johnny makes it fun to come here and there's a lot of other things to do. It's only going to be good for business and golf.

Q. How close did you think that 7th tee shot was at the end of the round here to going in?

ANDY NORTH: Once it started coming back down the hill, it looked like it had a reasonable chance, but I was just happy it was close enough I could get it in, that's the best part.

Q. And then seemed like the second half of the round you guys kind of had things clicking.

TOM WATSON: Well, he did.

Q. What turned things around for you guys; not having to play each other's shots anymore?

TOM WATSON: He hit it like this and he hit it like that and he hit it about like that, that's what turned it around.