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PNC Father Son Challenge – Preview

**Tom and Michael Watson**

**MODERATOR:** Welcome to the 2019 PNC Father Son Challenge. If we could just get a couple comments on being back here. I know this is your first time back since 2002, how nice is it to be back together at this event?

**TOM:** Playing a competition with your family is pretty cool. Last time I played with Michael we played at the (2007) AT&T (Pebble Beach Pro-Am) and had a great time playing there, together as a team. We’re going to do that again here and I’m sure we’ll have a great time out there doing it.

**MODERATOR:** Michael, how much fun is it to be back here playing with your dad?

**MICHAEL:** It’s always fun. I wish we could play more, but anytime you’re playing a competition, it’s great. And when you can throw in my dad, especially when he’s on your side, it makes it even more fun. Echoing what he said, growing up with several of these sons, daughters… it’s a family out here. They all support you, you support one another. It’s fun to be back. It’s fun to be with the group we were out on TOUR with when I was a young kid.

**MODERATOR:** How’s your game these days?

**MICHAEL:** You know, my game is here and there. Every once and awhile I hit a good shot. Every once and awhile, I hit one that’s completely sideways. But overall, I feel OK.

**MODERATOR:** I know this has been a tough week, in a lot of ways, but does it help to be around family—both your own and your TOUR family?

**TOM:** It is. There’s a cathartic element to it, in a way. To be with your family, within a family. All the last few weeks. And continue on. One of the things my old caddie used to say when I made a triple bogey or something like that is “carry on.” And that’s what we’re doing.

**Q:** By the way, condolences. I’m like a lot of us, we were stunned when the headlines came along. Has it been a process…coming back?

**TOM:**  No. It’s still tough.

**MICHAEL:** It’s pretty recent. In time, it will hopefully get easier.

**TOM:** Other people have had the same thing happen to them. There’s 7 billion people in this world and they have their lives to live. You just have to get back up and carry on. And get the train moving a little bit. But it’s tough.

**Q:** I would imagine your conversations, the reception from your fellow professionals, the PGA TOUR family seeing you out here, a lot of encouraging words?

**TOM:** Of course there is. Of course there is. All they do is share their love. We’ve been around each other all these years and we know each other. They knew Hilary and they loved Hilary. It’s hard for them to come up and say something. It really is. And I understand that.

**Q:** What was the process of deciding to come back here after such a long time?

**TOM:** Actually, Michael said last year, ‘let’s play in the Father Son.’ But I couldn’t do it, we were in a horse show for charity last year. This year, he said ‘let’s go, let’s play.’ So I said, OK even though (inaudible).

**Q.** The AT&T event you referenced, was that this past February?

**TOM:** Oh no, it was 2007. He got the Jack Lemmon award. He helped his pro with 29 shots. The most anyone had helped their pro. He had a legitimate handicap. I never saw him play any better then the four rounds we played.