



ROUND 2
INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT: MARK O'MEARA
Saturday, August 25, 2012

MODERATOR: Good playing. Okay. Mark, 64 today, 10 better than yesterday and puts you in position. A couple general thoughts about the day. You started on the back nine and go out in 31 and then come home in 33.

MARK O'MEARA: Thanks, it was a nice day. Unfortunately, yesterday my start, 4-over after four holes or 4-over after five, wasn't exactly the start I wanted for this week and I kind of battles through it yesterday and posted 2-over, which wasn't a good score compared to what everybody else was doing, but considering my start, fighting through it was great.

And then today I changed the grip on my putter last night after I got done and I had a better feel on the greens and certainly played a good solid round of golf. Anytime you shoot 64 you really can't complain. I was kind of in control, and hopefully tomorrow I can get out there and play well again and I think it's going to be a good match-up tomorrow. Tom played great, he's got a one- or two-shot lead and I've got to get out there and just play solid again tomorrow, try to shoot a solid score.

MODERATOR: Just run through the birdies if you can.

MARK O'MEARA: 11, I hit a good drive and a 9-iron to about 12 feet. 12, I hit a good drive and a wedge to about maybe 12 feet again. 14, I hit a 3-wood off the tee just short of the green, chipped it to about three and a half feet. 16, I hit a 3-wood off the tee and a wedge to about five feet. 18, I drove it in the fairway bunker, cross bunkers, hit a 9-iron out and then hit a wedge to about 17 feet. That was a good putt obviously.

1, I hit a drive and a 3-iron in the front left bunker, blasted out to about 10 feet, made that for birdie. 6, the par 3, I hit a 6-iron to about 10 feet, made that for birdie. 8, I hit a 3-wood off the back left edge of the green and chipped a 7-iron from off the edge to about three and a half, four feet, made that for birdie.

MODERATOR: I guess you've been out for several months with the rib problem, but then you came back and you played really pretty good since coming back, correct?

MARK O'MEARA: Yeah, tied for 10th in Minnesota after being out for four months, and then last week in Endicott finished tied for 7th, lost by two shots. So two weeks after being away from the game for four months, it was nice. And certainly, like I said earlier, I was disappointed with yesterday's performance, but today was solid and hopefully we'll continue that tomorrow.

Q. (Inaudible)

MARK O'MEARA: Not very often, but you know, the golf course, it's not an easy golf course. There's trouble out there, a lot of trouble, and if you're off a little bit here or there, you can pay the price pretty quickly. But if you're swinging well, you're feeling good about the way things are, it is amazing this morning what they shot out there.

(Inaudible.) I was two shots off the lead in the final round and shot 64 that day and didn't get in the playoff, Loren Roberts won. He shot 7-under. The guys, they don't slack and somebody's going to shoot a low score tomorrow, you just go out there and hope you're that person.

Q. (Inaudible)

MARK O'MEARA: Everything about this Tour impresses me, I've said that before. After playing the regular Tour for 27, 28 years and now being out here for about, I think this is my sixth year and watching the scoring and the way the guys play, the golf courses are not as easy as everybody thinks. To watch what Tom Kite does, to watch what Tom Watson does, certainly Tom Jenkins, I've played with Tom a few times. He hits it extremely solid, still gets it out there. Hale Irwin, perfect example, here's a man who's almost 68 or is 68, he plays like a 40-year old, it's unreal. I think if the guys stay somewhat physically fit and injury free, they still play pretty well late into that age of their life. That's why I think we're really fortunate as professional golfers to have the Champions Tour and have sponsors like Boeing and everybody else who sponsors an event. There's no other sport to be doing what we're doing, it's pretty cool.

Q. How much do you see of Tiger?

MARK O'MEARA: You know, I don't see him much, to be honest with you. I saw him at Augusta this year. It was the first time I saw him since, I guess, the British Open last year. I don't really see him much. He's in Florida, I'm in Houston. I play this tour, he plays the young tour. It's not like he calls me up on the phone and says, Hey, man, c'mon out and check out my new house.

I keep asking him, How come I never got the call to come out and check out the new pad? He's like, No, you're not invited. I'm like, Okay, cool. He's like -- I said, What, do you got my picture at the security gate out front, don't let this guy in if he comes a-knocking?

We text each other once in a while. I saw him at the U.S. Open. I wasn't playing, obviously, but I was doing some stuff for Lexus and I bumped into him on the putting green and chatted with him for just a brief moment before his third round. Obviously that didn't pan out good for him.

It's been a long haul for him. It's good to see him playing well again. I don't know what he shot today, but he's certainly doing better. I know we all have unreal expectations of him, myself included. When he doesn't win majors, it's kind of a little bit of a shock, but he did have a lot of opportunities this year, so it's a move in the right direction of him.

Q. Are you surprised (inaudible) there hasn't been anybody older (inaudible) on this Tour?

MARK O'MEARA: I'm not surprised because there's always this new talent of youth coming out here, which at 50 it don't sound young, but out here guys sometimes can play pretty well on the regular Tour when they're 47, 48, 49, so when they come out here they're in pretty good shape.

Listen, it's hard to win on any tour. It's hard to win out here. I've only won twice and I've had about 13 seconds, so I know how tough it is to win.

MODERATOR: Okay, Mark. Thanks a lot. Good luck tomorrow.