



**ROUND 3**  
**INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT: MARK O'MEARA**  
**Sunday, August 26, 2012**

**MODERATOR:** Mark, thanks for joining us. A couple extra holes. Maybe just talk a little bit about your day and then we'll get some questions.

**MARK O'MEARA:** You know, I mean, I felt pretty good. I mean obviously you're a little bit nervous out there, but I felt like I played well. It was a little bit unfortunate break on 11, I hit one of my best drives of the week, hit it way down there, had I think 96 yards to the hole. Tough pin over there on the left and I hit a 54 degree wedge. I know I can't hit the other one and I'm trying to be committed to hitting a solid shot. I hit it good, flew too far to the back edge off into the bunker and plugged. I was pretty much dead. I was 9-under at that point, I made double bogey and it took a little wind out of the sails.

But I'm proud that I hung in there and fought back, birdied three out of the last seven holes or six holes and got in the playoff, and certainly was disappointed I didn't play better in the playoff. I had a putt, chance to win and I didn't hit a very good putt, pushed it.

It wasn't very much fun. I don't like finishing second, to be honest with you. I've finished second a lot out here. Jay Don hit some good shots in the playoff. He deserved to win. He had a good pitch shot on the last hole there. There's not much to say besides very disappointed.

**MODERATOR:** Can you just take us through what were you thinking after 11 and then talk about the birdies coming in in regulation.

**MARK O'MEARA:** You know, listen, the golf course, there's a lot of trouble out there, if you're off, you can pay the price. And the greens got a lot firmer on the back nine. The 14th hole, I hit a rescue, good shot, just flew off the back left fringe and went over the back of the green and hit a pitch shot close.

15, even though I drove it in the right rough over the bunker, I laid up and hit a pitching wedge to about seven feet, eight feet, which is a very makeable birdie putt and I pulled that putt. I didn't hit a very good putt there.

16, I hit a good 3-wood off the tee and a 54-degree sand wedge to 11 feet, 12 feet behind the hole, hit a good putt and made that one.

17, I kept it up on the wrong side and putted it down there and two-putted.

18, I kind of pulled my drive but I was in the fairway and hit a good solid 3-iron up there on the green and 2-putted for the birdie to tie Jay Don.

Then in the playoff I pulled my drive over on the left side. I had a lot further to go and I think I had two -- 191 the first time to the front and I think in the playoff I was like maybe 207 to the front, something like that, so it's uphill 10 yards, so I had to hit a rescue club. I didn't feel that bad over it, to be honest with you. I would tell you if I was super nervous. I wasn't calm, but I wasn't as bad as hitting a low blade or thin one like that. That was one of my worst shots, to be honest with you in that situation. But I got away with it, hit a great pitch shot up there. The green was, like I said, very, very firm and spun back down there.

After Jay Don didn't get up and down, I had a chance to win and that's all you can ever ask for. Unfortunately, I wish I would have hit a better putt because I felt like the tournament was mine, I just had to hit a solid putt and I didn't do it. I let him back in the game and he hit two good shots again on the back edge, and I didn't hit a very good 3-iron on my second shot trying to keep up the left side, but you can miss over on that left side and still play to the pin. My pitch shot kind of got under it a little more than I would have liked to. I hit an okay putt, I didn't hit a great putt. The rest is history. He hit a great pitch down there, tapped in for the birdie and he won.

**MODERATOR:** How long was the putt and how did you and Shane read it?

**MARK O'MEARA:** I think Shane felt like it was a ball outside the right, I think it was 14 feet, something like that. It was a tough putt. The greens are tricky out there, there's a lot of subtle breaks. I started it maybe just outside that and it started to break, but it never really broke in the middle of the putt, and when it started to, it was too late and it just missed on the right side.

**Q. (Inaudible.)**

**MARK O'MEARA:** It was probably eight feet, something like that.

**Q. A slider?**

**MARK O'MEARA:** It was like inside left and I started about right edge. Hit a putt like you guys probably would have hit, that's the way it goes. Usually I would make that. I take pride in usually finishing it off, but unfortunately out here it seems like I just get close.

And granted, I was away from the game for four months and I've come back and played three tournaments and I got a 10th, a 7th and a 2nd now. At least I'm moving in the right direction. This year's been a tough year just with the injury and everything and being away from the game so long. But on the other hand, I look at my start this week, 4-over after five, two double bogeys, another double bogey on 11 today, three double bogeys and I'm in a playoff. Last week I only had three bogeys for the whole tournament. The guys play good out here, but the scoring this week was tough because you're going to make some birdies but you're going to make some mistakes out there, too.

**Q. (Question regarding tournament.)**

**MARK O'MEARA:** I thought it was really good. The people here in Seattle, certainly in this tournament, I've come close a couple times now, and they're wonderful. They had a good crowd out there today. Certainly Boeing's a great sponsor. There's a lot of different sponsors here in Seattle, the Pacific Northwest.

And I know you guys know I love it up here, so I'll be in the Deschutes River tomorrow morning throwing my spey rod, trying to hook into a steelhead. I'm going to camp down by the river all week outside of Maupin and down the canyon, and I'll think about what I could have done better in the playoff. I've been a very fortunate guy, let's face the fact. Not many places you could still be doing this at 55.

**Q. (Inaudible.)**

**MARK O'MEARA:** I'll fish all this week hard in the river, and then I'm home on Monday next week, and then I'll practice that following week so the 4th or 5th I'll start practicing again and get ready to go to Hawaii and hopefully I can play a little bit better and move up that one more notch, instead of second, finish first.

**Q. In the big picture though, considering your time off, your injury, did you anticipate being here for a championship with all the top 10s you've had?**

**MARK O'MEARA:** It's such a great question and it's funny you ask that question. When I was in Utah the whole month of July practicing, I started practicing just after the 4th of July and I maybe could have gone to the British Open or the Senior British and played, but I didn't feel like I should force it. When

I was practicing at home or up in Park City at Tuhaye, which was the course I designed, and I was really striking the ball well, felt like I had more power and more rotation through my shot. I wasn't overly confident, but I felt good about what I was doing.

Last week, after hitting the ball good in Minnesota, for the way I played I should have shot better, and last week I was No. 1 in greens in regulation. I didn't putt very well, I finished 42nd in putting and finished two shots out of the lead. So it's close, but it's nice to at least have played well the three tournaments that I've been back.

**Q. (Inaudible.)**

**MARK O'MEARA:** Golf can be a very frustrating game even at this level. I don't think the game really owes Mark O'Meara anything. If anything, I owe the game a lot just because I've been fortunate to play for such a long time and have had so many memorable moments. But I would say that it's been disappointing to finish second this many times out here on the Champions Tour. I take pride in my wins on the regular Tour and the way I performed in the majors. Not to close the deal, it's a little bit frustrating, to be honest with you. But it does show you how good the quality of players is out here. The guys play extremely well and I need to play a little bit better. That's pretty much it.

**Q. Are you a bit surprised (inaudible)?**

**MARK O'MEARA:** It's funny because Shane, my caddie, is like, okay, we shot 2-over but considering the way the start was, let's shoot 16-under on the weekend. That was kind of a little bit, wow, sure, Shane.

I shot 8-under yesterday, and then today I wasn't on cruise control but 3-under with a chance for birdie on 10 and bombing it down there on 11. Okay, look, we're right where we need to be. But I also am aware of the difficulty of the incoming holes that, even though maybe on the score card doesn't look that difficult, there's a lot of trouble out there. And the fairways were firm and fast and I just wish I would have played a little bit better, that much better.

Thanks, guys.