

ROUND 1 INTERVIEW: TOM PERNICE, JR.
Friday, June 5, 2015



Q. Tom, you're back as the defending champ, solid first round. How do you analyze day one here?

TOM PERNICE, JR.: It was nice to get off to a good start. Great weather conditions, the golf course is in great shape, so to get in 5-under is a good start. Got away with a few sloppy shots at times and just didn't drive the ball as well as I could have, but had some good recoveries, hit some good putts. So I'm thrilled to get in at 5 and off to a good start.

Q. Always more confident when you come back to a place where you've won before?

TOM PERNICE, JR.: Well, you have good memories and good thoughts so it's nice to come back, but you still have to execute. Like I said, just a few loose tee balls that really put me in bad shape and the double bogey at 8 on the par 5 which was reachable, so just a combination of bad shots there. But I'm not in bad shape, off to a decent start. Like to have a little more control off the tee for the rest of the week but happy with the start.

Q. Have you ever defended? I'm sure you have somewhere in your career.

TOM PERNICE, JR.: Yeah.

Q. Is it a different mindset when you're playing the course?

TOM PERNICE, JR.: No, I don't. Like I said, you have good memories from the past, but my best thing is I try to make sure that I'm prepared because it all comes down to execution. Everybody's played here and knows the course now for three years and you have some good memories and stuff, but it boils down to executing really and getting it taken care of.

Q. You sound like, I don't want to put words in your mouth, but maybe you got as much out of this round as you could considering you left some opportunities out there? Maybe not accurate?

TOM PERNICE, JR.: Maybe not. I had a good stretch of some birdie chances at 10 and 11, another one at 16, but I made a nice save at 18, made a nice birdie at 17. You've got to take what you can get and hope you sneak as many of them in as you can.

Q. Well, you didn't have to chip in from behind 17.

TOM PERNICE, JR.: No, I hit it on the green this time, so it was good.

Q. Do you remember when you last defended, what tournament that was?

TOM PERNICE, JR.: That would have probably been 3M up in Minneapolis.

Q. I don't want to say is it harder to win or is it harder to defend?

TOM PERNICE, JR.: I don't know that it's one or the other. Like I said, I think it's about executing, to be honest with you. I think you've got to get out there and hit the shots and make some putts.

Q. When you get a day like today with virtually no wind and it's only three rounds instead of four, does it really make you grind and say I've got to get off to a good start?

TOM PERNICE, JR.: I don't think you say you have to do anything, but you know the opportunity's there so you set yourself up and try to -- when you have the opportunities, go ahead and attack and try to make some birdies.