

TOM LEHMAN (-9)

Q. Alongside the king to develop this golf course, add a little teeth to it for players this week. He's one of those players that is said to have enjoyed it. Tom Lehman, nice playing the last few days. You must be really enjoying it here.

TOM LEHMAN: I am. I've always liked the golf course. We've made a few changes. Steve Wenzloff and I worked pretty hard to try to make a course that would challenge the best players, and the soft conditions are making it very scorable.

But it's been fun being home. I know the course extremely well, that's a big advantage for me. Been driving the ball well. But really, to be able to go out and play 18 holes with Sebastian today and Matthew Wolff, those two young guys are so gifted and so talented and to watch them play is really fun for me. I've enjoyed everything about this week.

Q. We were musing of what the conversation would be like with a guy that's just getting started in his career and one that's enjoyed a lot of success. What were you talking about out there?

TOM LEHMAN: You know, I like to find out about their lives a little bit. We talk a lot about them, where they came from, the success that Matt has had as a junior amateur and then collegiate and leading up to this.

His style of play is really exciting and fun to watch. He reminds me in a different way but in similar ways to John Daly when he first started playing golf, that really aggressive style of play where he drove the ball way past everybody else. He had no fear. Great putter. Both similar that way. Great drivers and great putters, which leads to a lot of low scores.

But it's funny, we got talking about sports and other -- him playing baseball and the fact that my kids played baseball and I abused the umpires, just get on their back mercilessly. Sean, who's caddying for me, was like, "Yeah, it was embarrassing." I think Sean and those guys had probably more in common than I did, but we had a good time together.

Q. Now he's starting his PGA career. It's his third start here, he goes out and shoots a round like that today. Your advice and your wisdom, what would you offer to him going forward?

TOM LEHMAN: Yeah, my advice is simply -- my mantra's always been to find what you do well and perfect it, and so just do that. The way he swings, it actually gives him an advantage over most every other player that he's kind of like Furyk in that -- and Lee Trevino in that there's almost no face rotation through the ball with those guys. Their club stays

square for so long and therefore they hit it so straight. So with power like that, you have to have that. His swing is in some ways a gift to him because he's a straight ball hitter.

Q. And for your game, just to finish up before we let you go here, you've got to be mighty happy with your game, three rounds in the 60s here. You're playing from probably a few yards further back than you've played here before. You've got to be excited with your showing so far this week.

TOM LEHMAN: Yeah. There's really four I would say really hard holes for me out here, maybe five; three of them on the front nine. The front nine's a tough nine. The second hole, third hole, ninth hole are all really difficult, 11th hole's pretty tough, too. The par-3 13th. And then the rest of them are not that different. The rest of them are much like I played before, a little longer but nothing to write home about. So if I can play those five holes well, I think I can shoot a good score.

Q. Tom, exciting day. Just thoughts on your round in general and a hole-out there at the par-4 7th?

TOM LEHMAN: Yeah, I got off to a really good start today, I birdied the first and second hole. Managed to make a par on the third hole, so it was a nice start for me.

And then after that it was kind of the Matthew Wolff show. Kind of got sucked into watching him play and boy, what a round he played. He hit so many amazing iron shots. He nearly jarred it three or four times. I feel like I played pretty well, but the story of the day was him and it was really fun to watch.

Q. There's a 40-year age difference between the two of you.

TOM LEHMAN: Yeah, there is.

Q. And just your perception of his game? Can you compare it to anybody else?

TOM LEHMAN: Well, it reminded me in different swings, different styles but the same type, the same type kind of jaw-dropping way of playing as John Daly when he first started. John was very much the same way. When you first watched him play, you couldn't believe a guy could hit it that far. He could hit it with the club so far beyond parallel, and combine that with a really beautiful putting stroke, you say, boy, this guy is sensational.

Matthew Wolff is the same kind of player, tremendous speed. He has a swing that's unique, but the uniqueness I think of it is such an advantage to him because the fact that he swings in a way where he keeps the face square for so long through impact, almost no face rotation, so you don't see wild shots from him. He may pull one, he may push one, but he's not hitting these big slinging hooks or slices. Everything is really hard and really straight, most often at the pin. Amazing.

Q. Was your swing longer when you were younger?

TOM LEHMAN: Like longer -- I don't even know. It's never been real long, I was always more compact.

Q. You said yesterday that you drove it particularly well for two rounds. Did it continue today?

TOM LEHMAN: I didn't drive it quite as well today. I hit a whole bunch of good tee shots, but not quite as many. I made three bogeys, made a few more mistakes today. Maybe wasn't quite as focused today. A little bit tired, have to be honest. But, you know, kind of a long -- somewhere on the back nine I feel like I started hitting my stride again and hitting the ball extremely solid, a lot of chances for birdies and played pretty well.

Q. You guys had a fun exchange there on 7.

TOM LEHMAN: Yeah, yeah. Well, I think they were hitting like rescues and 3-woods and I just hammered a driver and I was still short of the green and they were both over. It's a different ballgame out here with the style of play, but it's fun to watch. It's fun to see how gifted they are. It takes a lot of talent to swing that hard and hit a ball that far and hit it that straight. That combination is not easy, and to watch so many guys do that, I tip my hat to them.

Q. You said yesterday you were exhausted after the round. Enough in the tank for tomorrow?

TOM LEHMAN: Yeah, yeah. I came into this week just hoping to make the cut. I said if I could make the cut, it would be a successful week. But I'm actually playing quite nicely and I feel like I left a few shots out there, so tomorrow's a good day. A good round tomorrow can give me a nice finish and that would be kind of fun.

Q. When you were 20 years old, how much longer were you than you are now driving, do you think?

TOM LEHMAN: So hard to say. I was always one of the longer drivers all through college, all through amateur golf, early part of the Tour. You know, top 10 or 20 percent for sure. So I'm not sure what that would mean out here if you were in the top 10 or 20 percent, but that's kind of where I was.

I still hit it pretty far for I guess my age, but there was times when there was a lot of real estate between me and those guys. I mean, I think there was one tee shot on No. 6, it had to be 100 yards. I think I hit a driver and then I hit a 5-iron and then I hit a three-quarter 50-degree wedge and Matt hit a driver and a 5-iron. Different game.

Q. Tom, what is it about No. 9 that made it the hardest hole for at least the first two

days?

TOM LEHMAN: I think the wind is -- typically you get some kind of a helping from the right wind, a right-to-left wind, and we haven't had that. Like today we got there, it was hurting again. It's been like southeast and northeast. So anytime you get that east-type wind, it hurts on No. 9, so it's playing really long. I hit a good tee shot today and I had almost 240. Those guys hit nice shots, they both made birdie. They probably hit a 6-iron and an 8-iron.

Q. Statistically, it was harder on day one when it was on the left side than it was yesterday.

TOM LEHMAN: Well, it played a lot longer, though. Because it was wetter, it played longer. That's one of the few greens that actually has lot of slope, so that pin that first day was in a spot with a lot of slope around the cup. Difficult to putt to, and if you missed left, you probably couldn't get it close.

Q. Matthew is one of four guys, college stars who just turned pros. Are you familiar with the other three and sort of where the game is headed?

TOM LEHMAN: I met Viktor on Tuesday and I haven't met the other two guys, but from what I see on TV, I think the game is in pretty good shape.