

TOM IZZO

Q. What made you come out here kind of last minute like you said?

TOM IZZO: Kind of last minute. You know, I've been on the road recruiting for three, four days. Had a day off and decided to spend it up here with some guys and come to a great event. You know, I haven't got a chance to play Warwick in a while. At one time I played with Tiger here in a pro-am and that kind of ruined my game. I was nervous for three years after that. The Final Fours are a piece of cake compared to playing in front of people here.

Q. Now, I saw the exchange with you and Fred Couples, that was pretty cool. I asked him, oh, warm reunion with Tom Izzo? He goes, no, I've never met him before, I'm just a fan of his. What was that like to meet him?

TOM IZZO: Well, Jim Nance is a real good friend of his and Jim does all the Final Fours and done a lot of our games. And there's another guy named Jim Perry was at Houston. He was a friend of mine that coached Mark Montgomerie, a couple players I had, so that was the connection. But I had never met Freddie until now, too, but sure is a warm and fuzzy guy. Makes you feel right at home.

Q. It's just funny, those are the big-name guys and then he kind of sees you and needs to say hi to you. What does that say about your program? I asked him, well, you're from Seattle, Houston, what makes you a fan? He says, the program itself. But how does that make you feel?

TOM IZZO: It makes me feel awesome. If he would really do me a favor, he'd give me a few tips on my golf game. You know what, I think that's kind of what makes what we're doing special up at Michigan State. It has become more of a brand outside of the state, not just inside. When your program grows, that's what you hope happens. To have a guy like Freddie say that, that makes me feel good.

Q. Do you know who you're golfing with today?

TOM IZZO: I don't. That's how quick this was, I don't. But I heard he's a pretty good golfer, I just don't know who it is yet.

Q. We'll find you out there with him.

TOM IZZO: That would be great, but don't film any of my shots, all right? I'll tell you what, film my putts.

Q. We only show the good stuff, we don't put any bad shots on.

TOM IZZO: Is that what you do during the basketball season, too?

Q. Yeah.

TOM IZZO: Wow, you get a few makes in there and a few yells at the officials, I gotcha.

Q. We don't do it for everybody. We've got a select few, but you're up there.

TOM IZZO: I appreciate it. Thanks a lot for being here.

Q. Tom, the golfers like Fred Couples and some of these guys seem to be just as excited to meet you --

TOM IZZO: Oh, I don't think that's true.

Q. -- as you are to meet them. Well, Fred was. He was excited about meeting you. Isn't that kind of cool when the golfers come up to you?

TOM IZZO: Well, it is cool. It was fun to meet a couple of the guys and I'm sure I'm looking forward to meeting some more of them. That's the neat thing about sports, everybody's in it the same way. We all know we're one bad shot or one missed free throw away from going from high to low and I think all of us appreciate that about our profession. Whether you're in golf or whether you're in basketball or football, it doesn't really matter.