

ROUND 3 INTERVIEW
January 25, 2020



TYLER McCUMBER (-8)

Q. I know it's got to be exciting playing with Tiger for the first time. I know I played with Tiger about a half a dozen times and when I finally got to play with him in a tournament, my heart was racing a little bit and I had known him for 15 years. What was it like on that first tee with him?

TYLER McCUMBER: Absolutely. It was such a great experience as a player, as a golf fan growing up watching Tiger. You know, it didn't help that I was also a little bit late to the tee, so everything was compounding the anxious feelings. But it was a great day and he made it about as comfortable as you can make it.

Q. You were pretty comfortable, you couldn't have been too nervous to have a clean card 68. Talk about the round. It was solid.

TYLER McCUMBER: Yeah, played solid. I feel like my mind's really in a good place right now and the game is sort of following along with it. I've just been really focused on a few things that I think have allowed me to get some more out of my rounds scoring-wise and I felt like I did a good job of that today.

Q. It doesn't matter how good you hit it, it's the number you post.

TYLER McCUMBER: Yeah, absolutely. That's everything.

Q. What went through your head yesterday when you saw the pairing? How did you find out? Was it a text message?

TYLER McCUMBER: Yeah, I saw the scores afterwards and saw that it was going to link up that way given I think 80 guys made the cut. I found out pretty soon after my round.

Q. How was it?

TYLER McCUMBER: It was a great experience. You know, I feel like I tried to do as much preparation as I could beforehand, but there's no way to really prepare for that. You know, sort of just adjust along the way, but it was a great experience.

He made it really comfortable out there. He's a gentleman and it was an honor to play with him, for sure.

Q. I'm sure you were a little nervous starting the round, but what happens after that?

TYLER McCUMBER: Yeah, absolutely. I think starting the day it didn't help that I was about four minutes late to the tee. Never done that, but it's a good time to start, right?

Once you get there, you hone in, you focus. I feel like Bussey (sp?) who's caddying for me this week, he did a good job of keeping me calm. We were both aware of it, we weren't trying to fight it. We were more so accepting it and trying to figure it out.

Q. Why were you four minutes late?

TYLER McCUMBER: I just was got caught up on the green. Not late to my tee time, just four minutes later than I normally get there.

Q. Did anything you saw from Tiger surprise you? I mean, having watched him for all these years and then to actually be up close in person, anything about his game that stood out?

TYLER McCUMBER: I mean, his game is incredible. To play with him today is, not only as a player, is a great experience learning-wise, but as a golf fan growing up, he dominated the TV, there's a lot to learn from it, especially from a playing perspective.

Q. How many holes until you felt, okay, it's just a tournament, until it felt normal?

TYLER McCUMBER: Yeah, you know, I felt pretty good. I felt appropriately anxious on the first few holes, but once you make a few good swings and realize that you're still playing the same game, you start to feel comfortable again.

Q. How would you describe the crowds and just playing in front of them?

TYLER McCUMBER: They're really good fans. They're very loud and you definitely can feed off their energy because it's real positive. That was a good part of the day for sure.

Q. So it wasn't overly distracting in any way?

TYLER McCUMBER: Not at all, not at all. I thought everyone was shockingly -- actually, after he would finish out and we still had to put, Baker and I, there were no distractions. There was nothing really all day.

Q. A year and a half ago you were playing in Canada. Did you ever think how fast things seem to have come?

TYLER McCUMBER: Yeah. This is definitely what I've been working for my whole life and it's where I feel that I belong. I think I'm grateful for where I am, for sure. But in regards to playing and what I'm capable of doing, I feel pretty comfortable with where I'm at.

Q. Did you ever catch yourself thinking that, like there was a moment like, wow, I'm

playing with Tiger Woods at Torrey Pines?

TYLER McCUMBER: Absolutely. This is his track, this is -- I mean, watching the Open here and how well he played and what he battled through is one of the greatest spectacles in golf history, so it was unbelievable.

Q. Did you stop playing for a while?

TYLER McCUMBER: I did, yeah, briefly. I had shoulder surgery, labrum, and didn't really play for a few months.